Vibriosis

What is it?
- Vibriosis is caused by a contagious bacteria (germ) named *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. The germ may be in the coastal waters, or uncooked shellfish or fin fish harvested from coastal waters.

What are the symptoms?
- Usually start 12-24 hours after exposure
- Moderate to severe watery diarrhea
- Abdominal cramps
- Sometimes nausea and vomiting, fever, chills and headache.

How is it spread?
- Raw shellfish
- Other foods can be “cross-contaminated”. For example, a food washed in contaminated sea water and not cooked before eating could be a source.

Diagnosis and treatment
- The bacteria can be identified from the stool (bowel movement).
- Treatment usually not needed
- May need fluid replacement therapy
- Antibiotics (tetracycline or doxycycline) usually not necessary, but may be indicated in severe cases.

Prevention
- Thoroughly cook shellfish and fin fish before eating.
- Do not rinse cooked shellfish or fin fish with seawater which may be contaminated.
- Keep raw or cooked shellfish or fin fish well refrigerated before serving.

Report all cases to El Paso Department of Public Health by calling 915-212-6520