



# EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology and Preparedness Newsletter

July 2018

### Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

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For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact the editor.

### Division of Disease Control and Health Protection



#### Disease Reporting

To report diseases and clusters of illness:

Phone: (727) 824-6932

Fax: (727) 484-3865 (excluding HIV/AIDS)

To report HIV/AIDS by mail:

Surveillance Room 3-138  
205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## World Hepatitis Day July 28

According to the World Health Organization, viral hepatitis B and C affect more than 325 million people globally and lead to 1.34 million deaths every year. World Hepatitis Day is an opportunity to spotlight this major health challenge that impacts so many.



On Friday, July 27, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County will be providing no-cost hepatitis testing and education from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the following location:

St. Petersburg Health Department  
205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

More information on World Hepatitis Day and how you can help your community can be found here: <http://www.who.int/who-campaigns/world-hepatitis-day/2018>

*Did you know...* July 28, which is Dr. Baruch Blumberg's birthday, was selected as World Hepatitis Day to honor his contributions to the discovery of the hepatitis B virus in 1967, the development of the first test for hepatitis B in the blood supply and the hepatitis B vaccine. For this work, and work on other infectious diseases, he was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1976.

## Rabies– Vaccine & Immune Globulin Availability

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated their website to include information on the new Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) products available in the United States.

- **KEDRAB**, manufactured by Kedrion Biopharma, is a new HRIG product approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in August of 2017 and is now available on the market.
- **HyperRab**, manufactured by Grifols, is a more concentrated version of their already available product, HyperRab S/D. HyperRab, received FDA approval in February 2018, and comes in a 300 IU/ml concentration as opposed to the 150 IU/ml of all other products. Therefore, a smaller volume is necessary to achieve the recommended 20 IU/kg dose.
  - This increased concentration might be particularly useful for infiltration around wounds that occur in areas with minimal room for tissue expansion.
  - The increased concentration could potentially result in overdosing of the HyperRab product or under-dosing of the HyperRab S/D product if care is not taken to review the potency of the product being administered.

At this time, there is no supply restrictions of the rabies vaccine or HRIG. Additional resources regarding rabies post-exposure follow up can be found here: [https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical\\_care/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/index.html)

## Additional Health Advisories and Alerts

[Ebola in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bikoro—Travelers' Health](#)

[Multistate Outbreak of \*Salmonella\* Mbandaka Infections Linked to Kellogg's Honey Smacks Cereal](#)

[Multistate Outbreak of \*E. coli\* O157:H7 Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce](#)

# Vibriosis

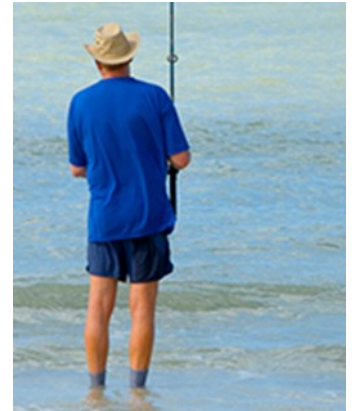
Rebecca Bohinc, MPH, CPH

As coastal water temperatures begin rising in May, concentrations of bacteria belonging to the family *Vibrionaceae* also begin to intensify. *Vibrio* bacteria are naturally found in saltwater, estuaries and brackish water where fresh water mixes with sea water. Nearly 12 species of the *Vibrio* bacteria are attributable to human illness, known as vibriosis, and can cause gastrointestinal illness, wound infections or even death. Illnesses caused by *Vibrio cholerae* 01 and 0139 that produce the cholera toxin are defined as cholera and are rare in the US.

In the United States, nearly 80,000 infections and 100 deaths are attributed to vibriosis annually. An estimated 80 percent of infections occur between May and October when rising water temperatures prompt bacteria to move from the silt to open water. Species most commonly contributing to illness are *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *Vibrio vulnificus*, and *Vibrio alginolyticus*<sup>1</sup>.

Humans are exposed to the bacteria through contact with sea water or consumption or contact with raw seafood products harvested from affected waters. Annually, an estimated 52,000 cases of vibriosis are due to ingestion of contaminated seafood products<sup>1</sup>. Onset of gastrointestinal illness including abdominal pain and watery diarrhea can occur within 12-24 hours following ingestion of a contaminated product and will typically resolve within five days<sup>2</sup>. Raw oysters carry a higher risk of infection as they are filter feeders of their surrounding marine environment. Wound infections arise when broken skin is exposed to water containing the bacteria and symptoms may occur within 12-96 hours following exposure. *V. vulnificus* is often associated with severe wound infections leading to necrotic skin lesions, possible limb amputation and increased risk of mortality.

Individuals who are immunocompromised, have low gastric acidity or liver disease are at greater risk of infection and complications of the disease<sup>2</sup>. Those experiencing symptoms of vibriosis and with a recent exposure to seawater or seafood products are advised to seek medical attention. Diagnostic testing can be completed upon collection of stool, blood or wound exudates<sup>3</sup>. Cases of vibriosis are notifiable to the local health department within one business day.



Source: www.cdc.gov

## The following practices can be used to reduce the risk of infection:

- Avoid cross contamination of seafood products during food preparation
- Wear gloves when preparing shellfish to prevent wound infections
- Foods not immediately consumed should be promptly refrigerated
- Thoroughly cook all seafood
- Wear protective water shoes while walking or swimming in coastal water
- Avoid seawater if experiencing pre-existing wounds
- Promptly cleanse any fresh wounds exposed to seawater with soap and clean water



Source: www.cdc.gov

## Risks of Eating Raw Oysters

- **You can get very sick from eating raw oysters, even just a few.** *Vibrio* infections can cause severe illness in some individuals.
- **It is not possible to tell if an oyster is bad just by looking at it.** An oyster that contains harmful bacteria does not taste, smell or look different than other oysters.
- **You can get sick from eating oysters any month of the year.** More cases are reported during warmer months, but cases are reported year-round.
- **Oysters must be cooked properly to kill harmful bacteria.** Hot sauce and lemon juice do not remove bacteria from oysters.

More information about vibriosis can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vibrio/index.html>

## References:

1. *Vibrio* Species Causing Vibriosis. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. <https://www.cdc.gov/vibrio/faq.html> Last updated August 31, 2017. Accessed July 10, 2018.
2. American Public Health Association. (2015). *Cholera and Other Vibriosis*. In Control of Communicable Disease Manual 20<sup>th</sup> Edition. (pp.109-114). Washington, DC. American Public Health Association.
3. American Academy of Pediatrics. (2018). *Other Vibrio Infections*. Red Book 2018-2021 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases 31<sup>st</sup> Edition. (pp. 887-888). Itasca, IL. American Academy of Pediatrics.
4. Reportable and Infectious Diseases. Florida Health Charts. <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/CommunicableDiseases/default.aspx>. Accessed July 9, 2018.

# Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	June 2018	June 2017	Pinellas 2018	Florida 2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>A. Vaccine Preventable</b>							
Measles	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Mumps	1	0	2	36	2	0	0
Pertussis	2	1	9	146	35	18	17
Varicella	26	3	37	410	24	74	38
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	8	2	2	3
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	2	2	55	7	7	6
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1	12	0	0	1
<b>C. Enteric Infections</b>							
Campylobacteriosis	31	27	136	2340	207	137	104
Cryptosporidiosis	3	8	14	233	40	27	49
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	0	13	6	5	3
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	1	1	8	396	9	3	2
Giardiasis	2	3	24	526	45	41	30
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1	21	0	2	2
Salmonellosis	32	31	108	2491	278	188	196
Shigellosis	7	7	27	722	26	19	174
<b>D. Viral Hepatitis</b>							
Hepatitis A	6	0	13	91	0	2	4
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	0	4	10	189	25	28	37
Hepatitis B, Acute	7	5	28	424	51	68	57
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	1	23	192	30	49	32
<b>E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses</b>							
Animal Rabies	0	0	4	77	2	4	1
Rabies, possible exposure	5	14	66	2025	140	131	114
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	3	0	1	2
Dengue	0	0	0	4	0	2	3
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	3	1	4	48	17	11	6
Malaria	0	0	0	27	0	0	2
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	0	77	5		
<b>F. Others</b>							
Chlamydia	300	342	2134	n/a	4188	4133	4168
Gonorrhea	100	178	730	n/a	1574	1566	1439
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	1	9	209	23	19	18
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	26	1	0	1
Syphilis, Total	23	56	201	n/a	382	400	289
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	13	15	86	n/a	160	188	151
Syphilis, Early Latent	5	24	65	n/a	128	146	83
Syphilis, Congenital	0	1	1	n/a	5	2	3
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	5	16	49	n/a	89	64	52
Tuberculosis	5	3	15	n/a	28	31	14
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	0	2	91	11	8	11

n/a = not available at this time.

Reportable diseases include confirmed and probable cases only. All case counts are provisional. Data is collected from the Merlin Reportable Disease database, surveillance systems maintained at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, and Florida CHARTS <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/default.aspx>. STD data in PRISM is continually updated. Please note, data from the previous month takes up to an additional month or more to be correctly updated.