

Vibrio vulnificus infection

2017 Case Definition (North Carolina)

CSTE Position Statement Number: 16-ID-05

Clinical Description

An infection of variable severity characterized by watery diarrhea, primary septicemia, or wound infection. Asymptomatic infections may occur, and the organism may cause extra-intestinal infection.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Supportive laboratory evidence: Detection of *Vibrio vulnificus* from a clinical specimen (i.e. stool, urine, fluid aspirate, blood, etc) using a culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT)¹.

Confirmatory laboratory evidence: Isolation (i.e. culture) of *Vibrio vulnificus* from a clinical specimen (i.e. stool, urine, fluid aspirate, blood, etc).

Case classification

Confirmed: A case that meets the confirmatory laboratory criteria for diagnosis. Note that species identification and, if applicable, serotype designation should be reported.

Probable: A case that meets the supportive laboratory criteria for diagnosis **OR** a clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a case that meets the supportive or confirmatory laboratory criteria for diagnosis.

Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case

A case should not be counted as a new case if laboratory results were reported within 30 days of a previously reported infection in the same individual. When two or more different species of the family *Vibrionaceae* are identified in one or more specimens from the same individual, each should be reported as a separate case.

Additional Actions:

Request forwarding of isolates/samples to the NC State Lab of Public Health for confirmation.

CDC requests the completion of the [Cholera and Other Vibrio Illness Surveillance \(COVIS\) Form](#) for all Vibrio cases.

¹ Culture-independent diagnostic testing includes PCR, EIA, ELISA, and other antigen detection tests.