



## ***Vibrio cholerae* Serogroup Non-01, Non-0139**

### **What is *VIBRIO CHOLERA*E, SEROGROUP NON-01, NON-0139?**

This bacterium infects only humans and other primates. It is related to *V. cholerae*, serogroup 01, the organism that causes Asiatic or epidemic cholera. However, this disease is considered to be less severe than cholera. Referred to as non-cholera Vibrio (NCV), the bacterium inhabits marine, brackish and freshwater aquatic environments in the United States.

### **What are the symptoms of *V. cholerae*, serogroup non-01, non-0139?**

The incubation period is 12 to 72 hours with symptoms consisting of diarrhea, which may be bloody. Usually the diarrhea is accompanied by abdominal cramping and fever. Symptoms can last six to seven days. Extra-intestinal infections may also occur, such as in wounds exposed to contaminated waters. Non-01 and non-0139 serotypes do NOT produce toxins. The disease is usually self-limiting. Antibiotics such as tetracycline shorten the severity and duration of illness.

### **Who gets *V. cholerae*, serogroup non-01, non-0139 infection?**

Diarrhea may occur in anyone eating contaminated shellfish. Septicemia (bacteria gaining entry into the blood stream and multiplying therein) can occur in people with liver cirrhosis or who are immunocompromised, but this is relatively rare. FDA warns individuals with liver disease to refrain from consuming raw or improperly cooked shellfish.

### **What are some foods associated with infection?**

Shellfish harvested from U.S. coastal waters frequently contain *V. cholerae* serogroup non-01, non-0139. Consuming raw, improperly cooked or cooked and re-contaminated shellfish may lead to infection. Infected food handlers may contaminate other foods.

### **How common is *V. cholerae*, serogroup non-01, non-0139 infections?**

No major outbreaks of diarrhea are attributed to this organism. Sporadic cases occur frequently mainly along United States coastlines, and are usually associated with the consumption of raw oysters during the warmer months.

### **What are some preventive measures?**

- Avoid eating raw or undercooked shellfish such as oysters and clams.
- Only eat shellfish that are harvested from approved shellfish gathering waters.
- Avoid cross contamination from raw to cooked foods.
- Thoroughly wash all fruits and vegetables.