

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
VIBRIO VULNIFICUS	54	<i>V. vulnificus</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Vibrio vulnificus in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Vibrio vulnificus in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 133 - 134. • Print and review reporting forms: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Vibrio vulnificus (DHHS/EPI #54)</i></p>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of infection due to <i>v. vulnificus</i> in North Carolina residents are uncommon. Diagnosis should be verified. • Evaluate if presentation is a wound infection or systemic infection associated with consumption of raw or undercooked shellfish, other seafood or unknown. • Identify risk factors (persons who are immunocompromised and those who have chronic liver or renal disease are at increased risk and have higher rates of morbidity and mortality). • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s) and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain laboratory reports specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	

IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review clinical documentation and interview patient for potential source(s) of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recent travel to coastal areas seafood consumption (especially consumption of raw/undercooked oysters or other shellfish) puncture wounds/injuries due to shrimp, crabs, and other shellfish or finfish exposure to coastal (estuarine or marine) waters during which a pre-existing wound or new wound may have become infected Note: <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> is a marine vibrio. Infection is not associated with exposure to freshwater lakes, rivers, ponds or streams. These organisms only live in saline coastal waters so there must be some coastal connection (travel, shellfish, finfish, etc.).
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. If source of exposure is suspected to be contaminated shellfish notify Shellfish Sanitation Section (NC DENR) immediately of all suspect or confirmed cases. Contact information: <p style="text-align: center;">NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section (252) 726-6827 NC DENR, Division of Marine Fisheries (252) 726-7021</p> Collaborate with NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section to stop distribution and/or trace back any potentially contaminated products or foods.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness. Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the laboratory test results of all cases by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing. • You will have to specify on the Special Bacteriology form DHHS T806 to test for Vibrio species. Use the following link for obtain form: http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-T806.pdf
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile case. • Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.