

Yersiniosis

Agent: *Yersinia* species (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of contaminated foods, particularly raw or incompletely cooked pork products and unpasteurized milk, contaminated surface or well water, or by direct or indirect contact with infected people or animals.

Signs/Symptoms: Vary depending on age, but may include fever, abdominal pain, and bloody diarrhea.

Prevention: Preventive measures include safe food preparation and pasteurization of dairy products. People handling pork intestines should wash their hands and environmental surfaces thoroughly after contact with raw meat, and should not handle infants or young children or their toys, bottles, or pacifiers until hands are washed thoroughly.

Other Important Information: Infection most often occurs from eating contaminated food, especially raw or undercooked pork products, including pork intestines (chitterlings). Children are infected more often than adults. While most infections occur during the winter months, this is believed to be related to the preparation of chitterlings for the holidays, and not to outdoor temperatures.

Yersiniosis: 2015 Data Summary	
Number of Cases:	17
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	12.6
% Change from 5-Year Average:	+35%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.2

In 2015, 17 cases of yersiniosis were reported in Virginia. This is fewer than the 21 cases reported in 2014, but more than the five-year average of 12.6 cases per year.

No yersiniosis cases were reported in infants in 2015. At least one case occurred in each of the other age groups, with the most cases occurring in the 20-29 year (5 cases) and 50-59 year (4 cases) age groups. The remaining age groups had 1-2 cases each. Ten of 17 cases had race reported. Among those with a known race, seven were in the white population, two in the black population, and one in the “other” race population. Ten cases were reported among males and seven among females.

Seven cases were reported from the southwest region, five from the central region, three from the northern region, and one each from the eastern and northwest regions. Cases were distributed throughout the year, with seven occurring in the first quarter, three in the second quarter, four in the third quarter, and three in the fourth quarter. Among the 17 cases reported, three individuals consumed pork prior to becoming ill, one individual ate raw oysters, one was injured while working in a chicken coop, and one visited a farm with animals.