

Yersiniosis

Agent: *Yersinia* species (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of contaminated foods particularly raw or incompletely cooked pork products and unpasteurized milk, or 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: Safe food preparation and pasteurization of dairy products. People handling pork intestines should wash their hands and environmental surfaces thoroughly after contact and should not care for a young infant at the same time.

Other Important Information: Most infections occur during the winter.

Fourteen cases of yersiniosis were reported in Virginia during 2008. This is an increase from the 10 cases reported in 2007 and to the five year average of 10.2 cases per year. The highest incidence among age groups was reported among infants (6.8 per 100,000). Race was not reported for 36% of the cases. Among those with a reported race, the rate was higher in the black population (4.2 per 100,000) than the rate in the white population (1.1 per 100,000). Incidence among males and females was similar (0.2 and 0.1 per 100,000, respectively). Cases occurred in all but the eastern region, and incidence rates ranged from 0.2 to 0.3 per 100,000. While cases are expected to be concentrated in the winter months, only five (36%) of the 14 cases occurred during the winter.