

## **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.

<b>Yersiniosis: 2014 Data Summary</b>	
Number of Cases:	21
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	10.6
% Change from 5-Year Average:	98%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.3

In 2014, 21 cases of yersiniosis were reported in Virginia. This represents the highest number reported since yersiniosis became reportable in 2007 and nearly double the five-year average of 10.6 cases per year.

The median age of those with yersiniosis was 43.1 years, and ranged from 0-94 years. Yersiniosis cases affected the youngest and oldest age groups, including four cases (19%) in infants and eight cases (38%) in persons 60 years of age and older. Among the 15 cases with a known race, 12 were in the white population and three were in the black population. Cases were almost equally distributed among sex, including 11 males and 10 females.

Five cases each were reported from the eastern, northwest and southwest regions, while three cases each were from the northern and central regions. No seasonal pattern was observed using onset dates although only one case had onset during the third quarter of the year.