

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: 2013 Data Summary	
Number of Cases:	11
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	11.2
% Change from 5-Year Average:	-2%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.1

Eleven cases of yersiniosis were reported in Virginia in 2013, which is higher than the eight reported in 2012 but very similar to the five-year average of 11.2 cases per year.

The ages of persons reported with yersiniosis ranged from 0-80 years, and averaged 33 years. Seven (64%) of the cases were less than 30 years of age, while the remaining 36% were older than 65 years. Among the seven cases with race information reported, five were in the white population and two were in the black population. Eight cases occurred in females and three in males.

Three cases were reported from each of the eastern, northwest, and southwest regions; two cases were from the northern region and none from the central region. No seasonal pattern was observed in the onset dates. Except for one case, no clear risk factors were associated with the illnesses. For that one case, reported consumption of unpasteurized milk and caring for livestock presented potential opportunities for exposure.