

Increase in Bacterial Diarrheal Illness

To: Vermont Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Ambulatory Care Centers

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- Please Distribute Widely -

- Reported bacterial enteric disease cases, such as *Campylobacter* and Shiga toxin producing *E. coli*, exceed the Vermont five-year median.
- Consider bacterial enteric pathogens in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting with compatible clinical symptoms.
- Report suspected cases of bacterial enteric illness to the Vermont Department of Health by calling the Infectious Disease Section at 802-863-7240 or 1-800-640-4374 [in Vermont]. An epidemiologist is available 24/7.
- The Vermont Department of Health Laboratory provides stool testing for bacterial enteric pathogens free-of-charge. Specimens submitted for an **Enteric Screen** are tested for the following organisms:
 - *Salmonella*
 - *Shigella*
 - *Campylobacter*
 - *Yersinia enterocolitica*
 - *E. coli* 0157:H7
 - other shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli*
- Once pathogenic organisms have been isolated and identified, they are further discriminated by serotype using traditional typing methods such as slide and tube agglutination. *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter*, and shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* isolates are further characterized by pulsed field gel electrophoresis in the molecular lab.
- To arrange for enteric pathogen testing through the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory, contact the Infectious Disease Section (contact information above).
- Since the organisms listed above are found on the State of Vermont *Reportable Laboratory Findings* list, a positive result for an enteric screen is followed-up with an interview of the case to identify possible public health interventions.