

July 10, 2017

Fourth case of Vibrio confirmed in Mobile County

MOBILE, Alabama — A recent report of a woman possibly contracting *Vibrio vulnificus* bacteria in Fairhope has attracted media attention across the United States. While the Mobile County Health Department is not involved with the Baldwin County case, our Infectious Diseases & Outbreak division has recorded several cases in Mobile County.

There have been 4 documented cases for 2017. However, only three of the four cases occurred in Mobile County waters. The first case involved a Mobile County resident who consumed raw oysters in another state in March.

The second incident took place in April, and involved the consumption of raw oysters in Mobile County. Confirmation of the presence of *Vibrio* was received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The two most recent cases took place during June and came from exposure to a wound while in bodies of waters near Dauphin Island, the Mississippi Sound and Mobile Bay.

Vibrio bacteria naturally live in certain coastal waters and are present in higher concentrations between May and October when water temperatures are warmer. However the bacteria can be present throughout the year in some areas.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has issued a news release titled “Avoid entering bodies of water if you have cuts or abrasions; if injured, clean wound at once to reduce risk of infection.” Here is the link:

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/news/2017/07/07.html>