

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



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Governor

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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2015

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FAMILIES AND VISITORS ENCOURAGED TO VISIT FLORIDA'S BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

TALLAHASSEE—This week, several media outlets published stories that contained inaccuracies about the safety of Florida's beach water related to cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* infections.

Annually, the department issues a release to remind Floridians of ways to protect themselves and minimize exposure to a naturally occurring bacterium found in warm, brackish seawater called *Vibrio vulnificus*. The department's release from May 29 can be seen at www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2015/05/052915-vibrio.html.

In 2015, the department has reported eight cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* infections which include two deaths. The following are some important facts about *Vibrio vulnificus*:

- The bacterium does not pose a risk to a normally healthy person (who does not have open cuts or wounds) who swims in Florida's coastal waters.
- *Vibrio vulnificus* infections are rare.

Florida's beaches and water are safe to enjoy responsibly—risk of infection is minimal if you take proper precautions.

Please visit the department's [Vibrio vulnificus](#) page for the latest information regarding *Vibrio vulnificus* infections, including case counts which is updated weekly and other educational materials regarding this bacterium.

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