

## **Disease Fact Sheet: Yersiniosis**

### **What is yersiniosis?**

Yersiniosis is a bacterial disease that can cause diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. The illness can last several days to a week and might require hospitalization.

### **Who gets yersiniosis?**

Persons of any age can get yersiniosis. The disease is more common in children under 5 and adults over 60 years of age.

### **How is yersiniosis spread?**

People can get yersiniosis from contact with the feces of infected birds or mammals, such as kittens, puppies, or other animals, wild or domesticated. Pigs are considered primary hosts of the most common strain of *Yersinia*. People can also acquire *Yersinia* from raw pork or food contaminated by raw pork juices.

### **How is *Yersinia* diagnosed?**

Generally through a stool sample, but sometimes it is found by blood culture.

### **How is *Yersinia* treated?**

A doctor might treat *Yersinia* with antibiotics, depending on the patient's medical condition.

### **How can I avoid getting *Yersinia*?**

Wash hands well after handling animals or raw meat (especially pork), before handling food, and before eating. Cook all meat dishes thoroughly and take care to avoid contaminating other food with raw meat juices.

NOTE: Adults preparing dishes containing pork (for example, chitterlings) should be especially careful not to contaminate the food, drink, or immediate environment of small children, especially infants, with raw pork.