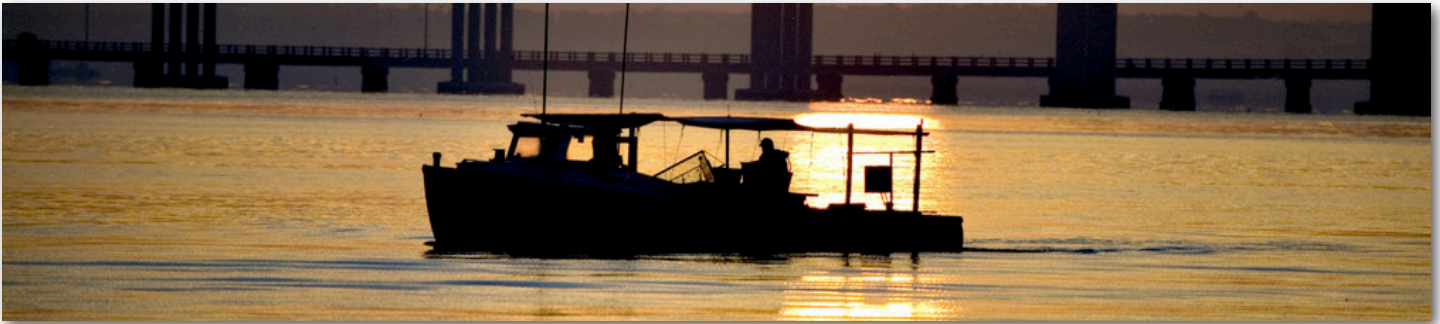


# Marylanders' Guide to Skin Wounds and Water Contact

*Vibrio* are bacteria that naturally occur in brackish water like the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and in salt water, especially during warm weather months.

*Vibrio* infections are rare. However, when *Vibrio* comes into contact with an open wound, it can cause serious infections characterized by unusual redness, swelling and drainage.

This can be particularly dangerous for people with weakened immune systems.



## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST *VIBRIO*

- Avoid water contact if you have any skin wounds.
- If water contact cannot be avoided, cover wounds with water-proof bandages.
- Clean wounds immediately with soap and clean water after contact. If soap and clean water are not available, clean the wound with hand sanitizer then wash as soon as possible.
- Wear water shoes to avoid cuts and scrapes.
- Wear gloves and use extra care when handling crab pots or other equipment.
- Always shower after swimming in natural waters and wash hands before handling food or eating.

**If you develop a wound with unusual redness, swelling or drainage, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY and let your healthcare provider know if you came in contact with brackish or salt water.**

For more information, check out  
*Maryland Healthy Beaches: Facts about Vibrio Bacteria* at  
[marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html](http://marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html)

