

Yersiniosis

The Pig Disease

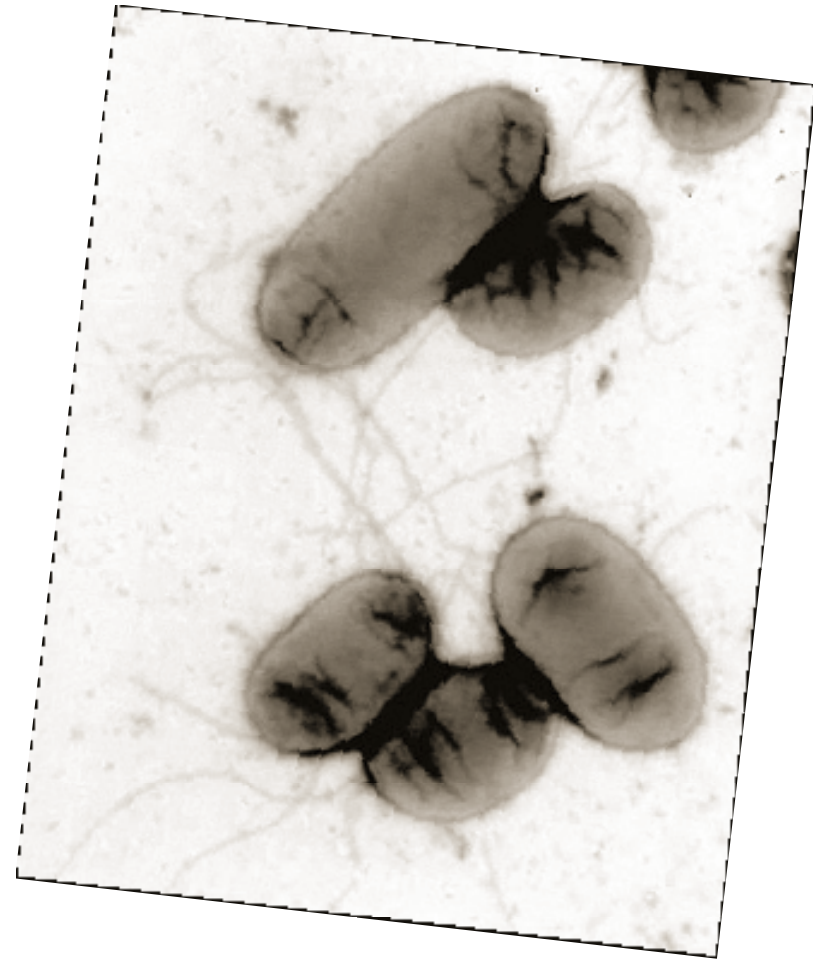


INFECTIONS

Yersiniosis

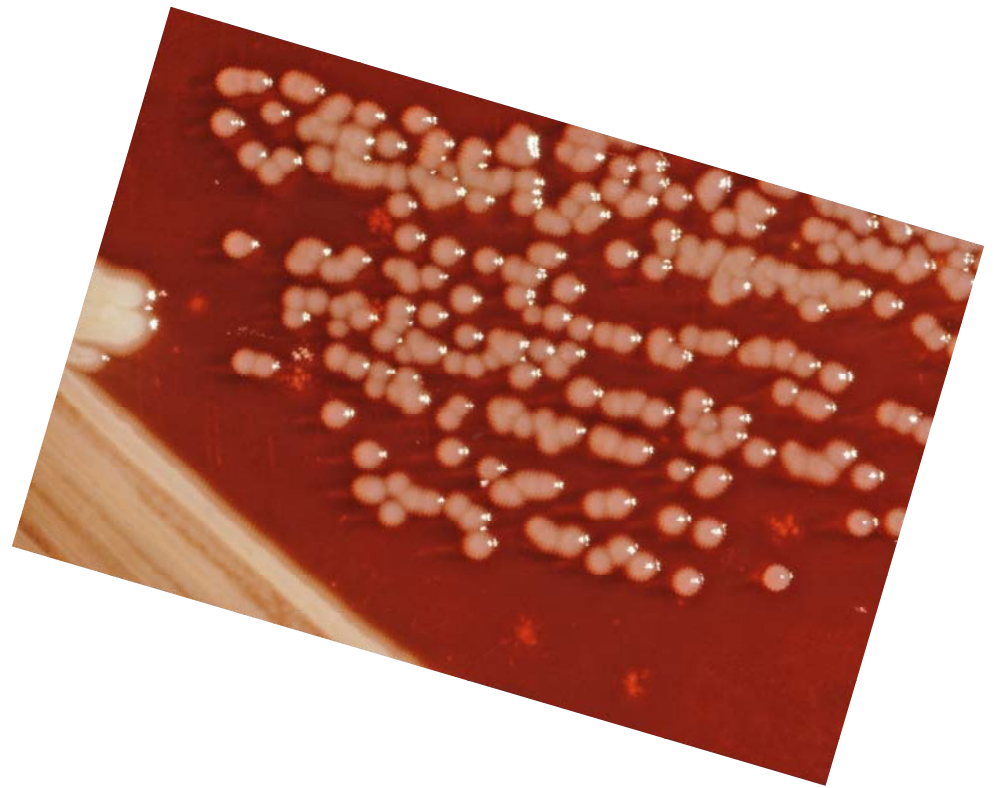
What is Yersiniosis?

- Yersiniosis is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium of the genus *Yersinia*. In the United States, most human illness is caused by one species, *Y. enterocolitica*. Infection with *Y. enterocolitica* can cause a variety of symptoms depending on the age of the person infected. Infection with *Y. enterocolitica* occurs most often in young children.



What sort of germ is *Y. enterocolitica*?

- *Y. enterocolitica* belongs to a family of rod-shaped bacteria.
- Only a few strains of *Y. enterocolitica* cause illness in humans.
- The major animal reservoir for *Y. enterocolitica* strains that cause human illness is pigs.



How do people get infected with *Y. enterocolitica*?

- Eating contaminated food such as raw or undercooked pork products
- Handling raw pork intestines and not washing hands before handling children's foods, toys, infants' milk bottles, pacifiers, etc.
- Drinking unpasteurized milk or untreated water
- Not observing basic hygiene after going to the bathroom



Wash your hands after handling raw meat



NOTICE
EMPLOYEES
MUST WASH
HANDS BEFORE
RETURNING
TO WORK



What Are the Symptoms of Yersiniosis?

- Symptoms of yersiniosis appear 4 to 7 days after exposure and can last up to 3 weeks.
- Include fever, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea.
- Older kids also get pain in the lower right side of the abdomen, which can mimic appendicitis.



How can *Yersiniosis* be treated?

- Uncomplicated cases of diarrhea due to *Y. enterocolitica* usually resolve on their own without antibiotic treatment.
- In more severe or complicated infections, antibiotics such as aminoglycosides, doxycycline, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, or fluoroquinolones may be useful.

