A lab result of Vibrio cholerae rarely indicates a Cholera infection.

Though lab results may look similar, Cholera is infrequent in the United States and is almost always related to international travel.

	Vibriosis **caused by non-toxigenic V. cholerae**	**Cholera** **caused by toxigenic V. cholerae**
Clinical presentation	As a GI illness, vibriosis causes watery, non-bloody stools and abdominal cramps.	Profuse, watery, non-painful diarrhea with rapid onset life-threatening dehydration. Stools have a "rice-water" appearance.
Infection routes	Exposure to bodies of water containing the bacteria, which occurs naturally in the environment. Raw or undercooked shellfish, particularly oysters. Person to person transmission has **not** been documented.	Exposure to bodies or water, drinking water, or food contaminated by feces of infected individuals or in countries where the bacteria is endemic. Rarely, domestic cases have been due to consuming contaminated seafood brought from outside the US.
Incubation period	Typically 24 hours, with a range of 5 to 92 hours.	Typically 1 to 3 days, with a range of a few hours to 5 days.
Incidence	*V. cholerae* is the 3rd most common Vibrio species in the US.	**Very uncommon** in the US.
Endemic?	Endemic in the United States because it is naturally occurring in bodies of water.	Endemic in about 50 countries, mostly Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Hispaniola. Not endemic in the US.
Bottom line	**Common in Arizona and the US**	**Very rare in Arizona and the US**

What happens when someone tests positive for *Vibrio cholerae*?

Lab result reads: V. *cholerae* **detected** (PCR) or Vibrio **isolated** (stool culture).

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Specimen is **forwarded** to the state public health lab.

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Specimen is **cultured** and **species** will be determined.

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One species of *Vibrio* is ***cholerae***. This will be reported as *Vibrio cholerae or V. cholerae.*

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V. cholerae specimen will be tested to determine whether the serotype is **O1 or O139**, which *may* indicate **toxigenic**, or epidemic Cholera.

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Specimens that are **non-O1** are considered **non-toxigenic vibriosis**. These **are NOT cholera.**

Specimens that are **V. cholerae O1** must be **sent to CDC** to determine if they produce a **toxin that could indicate epidemic Cholera.** This takes 8 weeks. This is *incredibly* rare.