

Cholera Outbreak Toolbox

Updated: June 2019



Key reference documents

- [Interim guidance document on cholera surveillance](#) (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Surveillance Working Group; 2017 (section 4)).
- [Cholera health topic](#) (Geneva: World Health Organization).
- [Cholera fact sheet](#) (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019).



Case definitions

WHO suggested outbreak case definition

Suspected case:

- in areas where a cholera outbreak has not been declared: any person aged two years and older presenting with acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and severe dehydration or dying from AWD;
- once a cholera outbreak has been declared: any person presenting with or dying from AWD.¹

Confirmed case:

- a suspected case with *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139 infection confirmed by culture or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and in countries where cholera is not present or has been eliminated, the *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139 strain is demonstrated to be toxigenic.

WHO surveillance case definition

- [Interim guidance document on cholera surveillance](#) (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Surveillance Working Group; 2017 (section 4)).

¹ Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) is defined as three or more loose or watery (non-bloody) stools within a 24-hour period.



Data collection tools

- Case investigation form(s): Not available.
- Line list(s): Not available.
- Electronic tools: WHO Regional Office for Africa Cholera Data Entry Tool (in preparation).



Laboratory confirmation

- Interim guidance document on cholera surveillance (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Surveillance Working Group; 2017 (section 4)).
- Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) used for surveillance and detection of an outbreak of cholera (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018).
- Interim technical note: Introduction of DNA-based identification and typing methods to public health practitioners for epidemiological investigation of cholera outbreaks (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Laboratory Working Group; 2017).



Other resources

- First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Laboratory Working Group; 2010).
- Prevention and control of cholera outbreaks: WHO policy and recommendations (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Laboratory Working Group).
- Acute diarrhoeal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps: decision-making for preparedness and response (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC); 2010).
- Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC); 2010).