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

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

A cholera alert (suspected cholera outbreak) is defined by the detection of at least one of the following:

- two or more people aged 2 years or older with acute watery diarrhoea and severe dehydration, or dying from acute watery diarrhoea, from the same area, within 1 week of one another.
- one death from severe acute watery diarrhoea in a person aged 5 years or older: and/or
- one case of acute watery diarrhoea testing positive for cholera by rapid diagnostic test (RDT) in an area that has not yet detected a confirmed case of cholera (including areas at risk for extension from a current outbreak)

- Interim guidance document on cholera surveillance (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control Surveillance Working Group; 2017 (section 4)).
Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) is defined as three or more loose or watery (non-bloody) stools within a 24-hour period.

Data collection tools

- Line list:
  - Appendix 5. List of elements to be included in a cholera line list. *Cholera Outbreak Response: Field Manual* (Global Task Force on Cholera Control; 2019)
- Go.Data Cholera outbreak template ([https://worldhealthorganization.github.io/godata/outbreak-templates/](https://worldhealthorganization.github.io/godata/outbreak-templates/)) To download the template and use, kindly email the Go.Data team at godata@who.int

Laboratory confirmation

- *Interim guidance document on cholera surveillance* (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control 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).
- Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) for cholera detection. *Rapid diagnostic test for cholera detection: Job aid*
- *Antimicrobial susceptibility testing for treatment and control of cholera* (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera, V1.0, March 2021)

Response tools and resources
• World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control Resources

• First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control Laboratory Working Group; 2010).


• Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness (Geneva: World Health Organization Global Task Force on Cholera Control; 2010).

• Integrated Disease surveillance and response in the WHO African Region 3rd Edition March 2019

• Ending Cholera: A global roadmap to 2030: The Secretariat of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control

Training

• Cholera: Introduction (English/Portuguese/Arabic/Hausa). Open WHO courses

• Cholera Kits Open WHO courses