Cholera Outbreak Toolbox
Updated: September 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 information page** (Geneva: World Health Organization).

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* 01 or 0139 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**


- Electronic tool for data entry, data analysis and visualisation. Cholera tool.xlsm. (Brazzaville: WHO Regional Office for Africa; 2018).

**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).


**Response tools and resources**

- Cholera outbreak tools (Brazzaville: Regional Office for Africa; 2017)

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


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

**Training**

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