



Cholera

Credits +

- Overview
- Prevention and control
- Vaccines

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Cholera remains a global threat to public health and is an indicator of inequity and lack of social development. Researchers have estimated that every year, there are 1.3 to 4.0 million cases of cholera, and 21 000 to 143 000 deaths worldwide due to the infection.

Cholera is an extremely serious disease that can cause severe acute watery diarrhoea with severe dehydration. It takes between 12 hours and 5 days for a person to show symptoms after consuming contaminated food or water. Cholera affects both children and adults and can kill within hours if untreated.

Most people infected with *Vibrio cholerae* do not develop any symptoms, although the bacteria are present in their faeces for 1-10 days after infection. This means the bacteria are shed back into the environment, potentially infecting other people.

Cholera is often predictable and preventable. It can ultimately be eliminated where access to clean water and sanitation facilities, as well as good hygiene practices, are ensured and sustained for the whole population.

- Fact sheets
- Questions and answers
- Databases and tools
- Initiatives and groups
- Resolutions
- Training
- Technical work

News

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19 October 2022 | News release
Shortage of cholera vaccines leads to temporary suspension of two-dose strategy, as cases rise worldwide



12 June 2021 | News release
Ethiopia to vaccinate 2 million against cholera in Tigray region



19 December 2019 | News release
Drop in cholera cases worldwide, as key endemic countries report gains in cholera control



30 October 2019 | News release
835 000 people to receive second dose of the cholera vaccine in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Publications

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17 February 2023
Global clinical data platform: Cholera case report form (CRF): module 2
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17 February 2023
Global clinical data platform: Cholera case report form (CRF): module 3
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17 February 2023
Global clinical data platform: Cholera case report form (CRF): module 1
[Download](#) [Read More](#)

3 August 2021
2020 Annual Meeting Report- International Coordinating Group (ICG) on Vaccine Provision for Cholera,...
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Our work



Supporting cholera outbreak response



Preventing epidemics and pandemics



Preventing and controlling cholera in endemic countries



Hosting the GTFCC secretariat

Infographics

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Infographic
Cholera 99% survive

Infographic
Contaminated water and sanitation

Infographic
WHO cholera kits

Infographic
5 keys to safer food poster

Videos

All → Campaign

2 April 2019
Water, sanitation and hygiene for cholera prevention

14 June 2017
Background on revised cholera kits

21 October 2016
WHO: Emergencies surveillance - Early Warning Alert and Response System

20 October 2016
WHO: Cholera - Questions and answers (Q&A)



World Immunization Week
 24 - 30 April

Related health topics

- Diseases and conditions: Diarrhoea
- Physical environment: Environmental health
- Physical environment: Food safety
- Socio-political determinants: International Health Regulations
- Socio-political determinants: Social determinants of health
- Health interventions: Vaccines and immunization
- Physical environment: Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Regions

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