

CHOLERA

Case definition

CONFIRMED CASE

Clinical evidence of illness with laboratory confirmation of infection through isolation of cholera toxin producing *Vibrio cholerae* serotype O1 or O139 from vomitus or stool.

PROBABLE CASE

Clinical evidence of illness in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Causative agent

Vibrio cholerae, gram-negative bacteria.

Source

Stool or vomit of infected human, contaminated water, raw or undercooked shellfish from contaminated water, and any food prepared with contaminated water.

Incubation

Usually 2-3 days, ranges from a few hours to 5 days.

Transmission

Ingestion of food or water that has been contaminated by feces or vomitus of infected human.

Communicability

Presumed to be the period during which the stool remains positive, usually a few days after recovery.

Symptoms

Most cases are asymptomatic. Some cases experience mild to moderate diarrhea. Less than 5% experience more severe symptoms including profuse amounts of watery diarrhea without abdominal pain or fever, nausea and vomiting.

Diagnostic testing

Stool for culture.

Treatment

Tetracycline or doxycycline. Oral or parenteral rehydration to prevent dehydration should be initiated as soon as a diagnosis is suspected.

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE

Case management

Initiate follow-up of case immediately upon receiving the report. Contact the primary care provider to obtain information about the case. Contact the case for further information.

If a water source is suspected contact Nova Scotia Environment immediately.

Exclusion

None

Contact tracing

Prophylaxis

Where there is a high likelihood of secondary transmission within the household, household members should be given chemoprophylaxis (tetracycline or doxycycline). Prophylaxis for whole communities is not recommended. Immunization of contacts is not recommended.

Surveillance forms

novascotia.ca/dhw/populationhealth/surveillanceguidelines/NS_Notifiable_Disease_Surveillance_Case_Report_Form.pdf

novascotia.ca/dhw/populationhealth/surveillanceguidelines/Enteric_Case_Report_Form.pdf

General Information Sheet

REFERENCES

Public Health Agency of Canada. [2009]. Case Definitions for Communicable Diseases under National Surveillance. *CCDR 2009*; 3552, 1-123. Retrieved from phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/09pdf/35s2-eng.pdf

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