

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Cholera

Cholera

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed and probable cases of disease

2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

3.0 Case Classification

3.1 Confirmed Case

Laboratory confirmation of infection with clinically compatible signs and symptoms:

- Isolation of cholera toxin producing *Vibrio cholerae* serovar O1 or O139 from an appropriate specimen (e.g., vomitus, stool)

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in a person with an epidemiologic link to a laboratory-confirmed case

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

The following will constitute a confirmed case of Cholera:

- Positive culture for toxigenic *V. cholerae*

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard culture for *V. cholerae*
- Serotyping for O antigen

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- Toxigenicity of *V. cholerae* isolates should be established
- Further strain characterization, including antibiotic susceptibility testing, is indicated for epidemiological, public health and control purposes

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms illness are characterized by mild or moderate diarrhea in roughly 90% of individuals. In 5-10% of cases, infected individuals develop severe, watery diarrhea and/or vomiting. The resulting loss of fluids in an infected individual can rapidly lead to severe dehydration. If not treated, death can occur within hours. Stools are typically colourless with flecks of mucous referred to as “rice water” diarrhea.

6.0 ICD Code(s)

ICD 10 Code A00

7.0 Comments

N/A

8.0 References

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- Nationally Notifiable Diseases Case Definitions with Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) and Epidemiologic Group Draft Edits. March 2007. Based on case definitions as written in the: Health Canada. Case definitions for diseases under national surveillance. Can Commun Dis Rep. 2000; 26 Suppl 3:i-iv 1-122. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/00pdf/cdr26s3e.pdf>.
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