Cholera (Vibrio cholerae Type O1)

Clinical criteria for case classification
An illness of variable severity that is characterized by diarrhea and/or vomiting; severity is variable.

Laboratory criteria for case classification
Either of the following:
- Isolation of toxigenic (i.e., cholera toxin-producing) Vibrio cholerae O1 or O139 from stool or vomitus or
- Serologic evidence of recent infection (testing performed at the CDC).

Epidemiological criteria for case classification
Not applicable.

Case classification
Confirmed:
A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory evidence.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports
Not applicable.

Comments
Illnesses caused by strains of V. cholerae other than toxigenic V. cholerae O1 or O139 should not be reported as cases of cholera. The etiologic agent of a case of cholera should be reported as either V. cholerae O1 or V. cholerae O139.

Infections due to V. cholerae non-O1 should be reported as vibriosis (Vibrio cholerae type non-O1) (Merlin disease code=00198).

Any available isolates of the organism must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories for confirmation and serotyping. This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.