Cholera (*Vibrio cholerae* Type O1)

Merlin disease code: 00190 Cholera (*Vibrio cholerae* Type O1)

Isolates for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.

**Clinical criteria for case classification**
An illness of variable severity that is characterized by diarrhea 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 criteria.

**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).