Cholera (\textit{Vibrio cholerae} Type O1)

Merlin disease code: 00190 Cholera (\textit{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 \textit{toxigenic} (i.e., cholera toxin-producing) \textit{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

\textbf{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 \textit{V. cholerae} other than toxigenic \textit{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 \textit{V. cholerae} O1 or \textit{V. cholerae} O139.

Infections due to \textit{V. cholerae} non-O1 should be reported as vibriosis (\textit{Vibrio cholerae} type non-O1) (Merlin disease code: 00198).