

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1. Case and outbreak definitions

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### Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)

Acute watery diarrhoea is an illness in which:

- Acute is defined as lasting less than seven days
- Watery is defined as non-bloody liquid stools that may contain mucous
- Diarrhoea is defined as three or more loose stools within a 24-hour period.

### Suspected cholera case

#### In the absence of a probable or confirmed cholera outbreak

A suspected cholera case is a person aged two years or older:

- with acute watery diarrhoea and severe dehydration
- or
- who died from acute watery diarrhoea with no other known cause of death.

#### In the presence of a probable or confirmed cholera outbreak

A suspected cholera case is any person:

- with acute watery diarrhoea;
- or
- who died from acute watery diarrhoea.

## Confirmed cholera case

- A confirmed cholera case is any person infected with *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139, as confirmed by culture (including seroagglutination) or PCR.
- The bacterial strain should also be demonstrated as toxigenic (by PCR) if there is no confirmed cholera outbreak in other surveillance units, and no established epidemiological link to a confirmed cholera case or source of exposure in another country.

## Community cholera death

- The death of a suspected or confirmed cholera case, with no other known cause of death, that occurs before reaching a health facility.

## Health facility cholera death

- The death of a suspected or confirmed cholera case, with no other known cause of death, that occurs after arriving at a health facility.

## Suspected cholera outbreak

- A suspected cholera outbreak is detected when:
  - Two or more suspected cholera cases;
  - or
  - One suspected cholera case with a positive RDT result (RDT+)
- is/are reported in the same surveillance unit within seven days.

## Probable cholera outbreak

- A probable cholera outbreak is detected when the number of suspected cholera cases with a positive rapid diagnostic test (RDT+) result achieves or surpasses a defined threshold within 14 days, while

taking into account the number of suspected cases tested (see table below).

Number of suspected cholera cases tested by RDT	Number of suspected cholera cases tested positive by RDT	Interpretation
3 to 7 suspected cases tested	At least 3 RDT+	Probable cholera outbreak detected
8 to 10 suspected cases tested	At least 4 RDT+	
11 to 14 suspected cases tested	At least 5 RDT+	
15 to 17 suspected cases tested	At least 6 RDT+	
18 to 21 suspected cases tested	At least 7 RDT+	

## Confirmed cholera outbreak

- A confirmed cholera outbreak is detected when a surveillance unit has at least one locally acquired, confirmed cholera case.

## Community transmission

- Community transmission is the occurrence of confirmed cholera cases that are not all epidemiologically linked.
- Unless clustered transmission has been demonstrated through case investigation, an outbreak is classified as community transmission by default.

## Clustered transmission

- Clustered cholera transmission is the occurrence of confirmed cholera cases that are all epidemiologically linked, based on the findings of case investigations.
- Clustered transmission is more likely to occur at the onset (or towards the end) of a cholera outbreak when the number of cholera cases is low.