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Cholera (Vibrio cholerae O1/O139) 1996 Case Definition | CDC  
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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Cholera (  
Vibrio cholerae  
O1/O139)  
1996 Case Definition  
Cholera (  
Vibrio cholerae  
O1/O139)  
1996 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
09-ID-03  
Clinical Description  
An illness characterized by diarrhea and/or vomiting; severity is variable.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of toxigenic (i.e., cholera toxin-producing)  
Vibrio cholerae  
O1 or O139 from stool or vomitus,  
OR  
Serologic evidence of recent infection  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed  
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. Only confirmed cases should be reported to National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) by state health departments.  
In addition to reporting through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS), CDC requests that states collect and report the information on the standard form for Cholera and Other  
Vibrio  
Illness Surveillance (COVIS), available at:  
https://www.cdc.gov/nationalsurveillance/cholera-vibrio-surveillance.html  
. CDC intends to integrate the COVIS form into the National Electronic Diseases Surveillance System (NEDSS) in the future. Reporting sites should use the COVIS reporting form until the integration is successfully implemented.  
CDC requests that all  
Vibrio  
isolates be forwarded to the Enteric Diseases Laboratory Branch (EDLB) for characterization. EDLB (specifically the Epidemic Investigations Laboratory) requests that state public health labs immediately forward all suspect  
V. cholerae  
isolates for serogrouping and cholera toxin testing as well as biotype and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.  
The 1996 case definition appearing on this page was re-published in the 2009 CSTE position statement 09-ID-03. Thus, the 1996 and 2010 versions of the case definition are identical.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Cholera (  
Vibrio cholerae  
O1/O139) | 1995 Case Definition  
Cholera (  
Vibrio cholerae  
O1/O139) | 1990 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
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Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
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Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
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