Cholera outbreak cases update, South Africa

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###### *Data source: NMCSS, TrakCare*

### Summary

Cholera is a potentially fatal acute diarrhoeal disease resulting in large volumes of watery stool, causing rapid dehydration that can progress to hypovolaemic shock and metabolic acidosis. Since the beginning of 2023 South Africa has seen an increase in the number of laboratory-confirmed cholera cases.

Between 1 February 2023 00h01 and 08June2023 23h59, there were a cumulative total of **184** laboratory-confirmed, and 392 suspected cases of cholera have been identified in five different provinces, most affected are: Gauteng and Free State provinces. Gauteng Province accounts for most of the cases at 90% (165/184) of the total cases reported from three different districts and Free State Province accounts for 6% (11/184) of the cases reported from one district. Cases have been diagnosed at both public (93%; 172/184) and private (7%; 12/184) laboratories.

The ages of laboratory-confirmed cases ranges from 1 to 91 years, with an average age of 38 years and a median age of 39 years. Females accounted for 53% (98/184) of the laboratory-confirmed cases. Age group 41-50 Years accounted for 22% (41/184) of cases; followed by 31-40 Years at 17% (31/184) and 21-30 Years at 11% (21/184).

### Total cases

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| Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed and suspected cholera cases, South Africa |

**Table** **1:** Descriptive Statistics of laboratory-confirmed and suspected cholera cases by district and method of diagnosis, South Africa

| **Characteristic** | **Overall**, N = 5761 | **Confirmed Case**, N = 1841 | **Suspected**, N = 3921 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age in years | 35 (16, 50) | 39 (23, 50) | 32 (14, 48) |
| Unknown | 151 | 14 | 137 |
| Gender |  |  |  |
| Female | 299 (52%) | 98 (53%) | 201 (51%) |
| Male | 270 (47%) | 86 (47%) | 184 (47%) |
| Self-Defined | 7 (1.2%) | 0 (0%) | 7 (1.8%) |
| District |  |  |  |
| Amajuba | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Bojanala | 4 (0.7%) | 3 (1.6%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Central Karoo | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| City Of Cape Town | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| City Of Johannesburg | 13 (2.3%) | 9 (4.9%) | 4 (1.0%) |
| City Of Tshwane | 392 (68%) | 154 (84%) | 238 (61%) |
| Ehlanzeni | 10 (1.7%) | 0 (0%) | 10 (2.6%) |
| Ekurhuleni | 8 (1.4%) | 2 (1.1%) | 6 (1.5%) |
| Fezile Dabi | 84 (15%) | 11 (6.0%) | 73 (19%) |
| Greater Sekhukhune | 3 (0.5%) | 0 (0%) | 3 (0.8%) |
| Ilembe | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Lejweleputswa | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Mopani | 7 (1.2%) | 2 (1.1%) | 5 (1.3%) |
| Nkangala | 29 (5.0%) | 1 (0.5%) | 28 (7.1%) |
| Sedibeng | 4 (0.7%) | 0 (0%) | 4 (1.0%) |
| Thabo Mofutsanyana | 1 (0.2%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Vhembe | 2 (0.3%) | 1 (0.5%) | 1 (0.3%) |
| Waterberg | 14 (2.4%) | 1 (0.5%) | 13 (3.3%) |
| 1Median (IQR); n (%) | | | |

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| Figure 2: Choropleth map showing the numbers of laboratory-confirmed cholera cases by geographical distribution. |