

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
CHOLERA	<i>Vibrio cholerae O1 & O139</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION	
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Cholera in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Cholera in the CD Manual. • Study the APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 120 -129. • Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Cholera (DHHS/EPI #6)</i>
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION	
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report of <i>V. cholera</i> in a North Carolina resident without a travel history should be questioned. • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. • Before contacting the patient, verify what information the healthcare provider has shared with the patient/family.
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain laboratory reports specific to this disease. Verify serogroup is O1 or O139. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Ensure the isolate is sent to the SLPH for confirmatory testing. Notify the SLPH of impending specimen. Use the following link for specimen submission information: http://slph.state.nc.us/microbiology/Cholera.asp
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.

IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If potential source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information (focus on travel history and seafood consumption). • Meal companions, for the 5 days prior to onset of symptoms in patient, should be interviewed.
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If source of exposure is suspected to be contaminated shellfish notify Shellfish Sanitation Section (NC DENR) immediately of all suspect or confirmed cases. Contact information: NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section (252) 726-6827 NC DENR, Division of Marine Fisheries (252) 726-7021 • Cooperate with NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section to stop distribution and/or trace back any potentially contaminated products or foods. • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active surveillance of close contacts to cholera patient (persons who shared food and drink) from 5 days of last exposure. • Chemoprophylaxis of close contacts and household members is indicated if there is high likelihood of secondary transmission. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation. • If two or more cases are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of cholera. • If indicated, submit outbreak summary report within 30 days from close of outbreak. Refer to Outbreak Investigation section of the CD Manual for additional guidance on Outbreak Summary Report.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the laboratory test results of all cases by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing. • You will have to specify on the Special Bacteriology form DHHS T806 to test for Vibrio species. Use the following link to obtain form: http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-T806.pdf
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile case. • Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.