Cholera surveillance for health care workers

Module 5

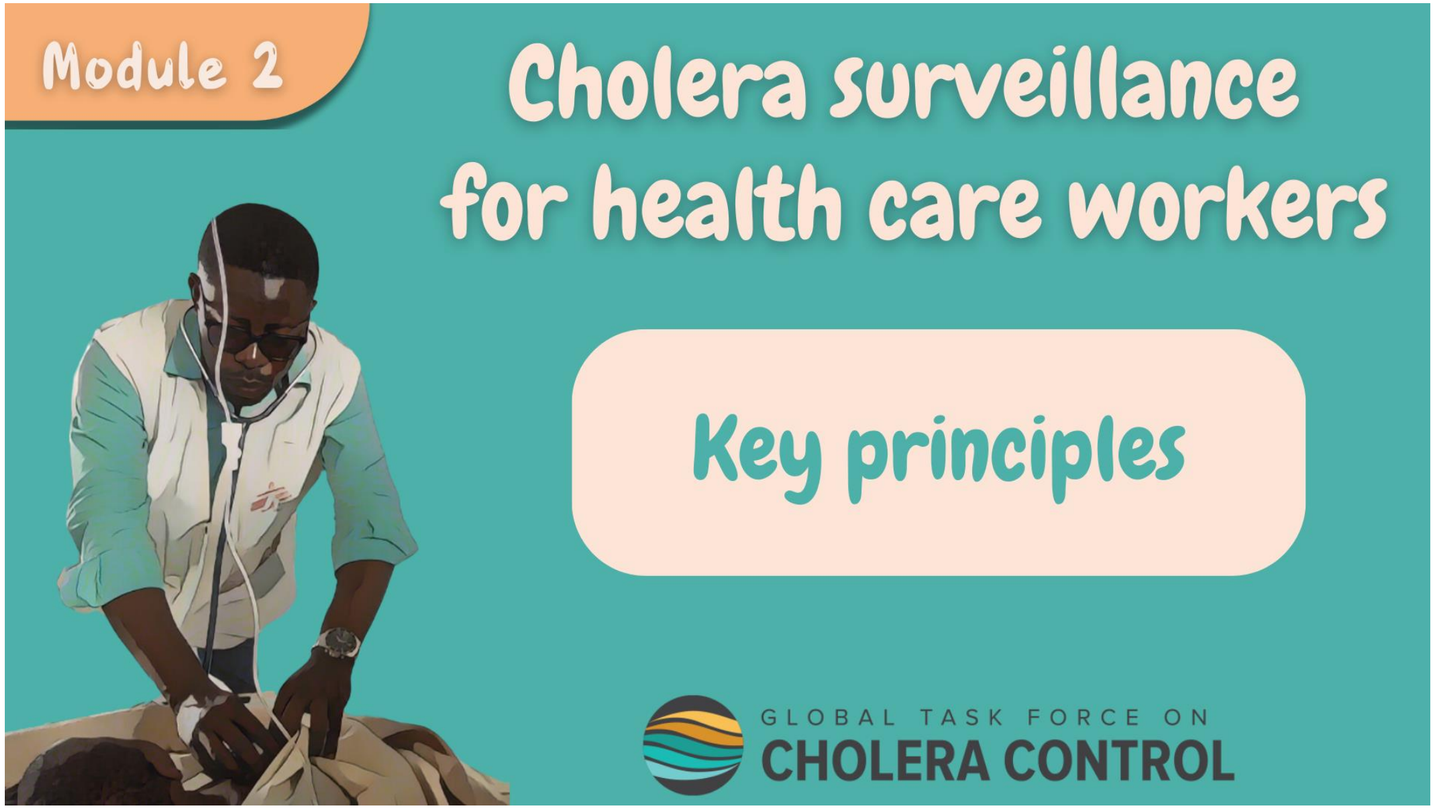
GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
CHOLERA CONTROL

Cholera surveillance for health care workers

Tracking of clusters

Get ready for this module

Before taking this module, make sure to complete Module 2 ‘Key Principles’



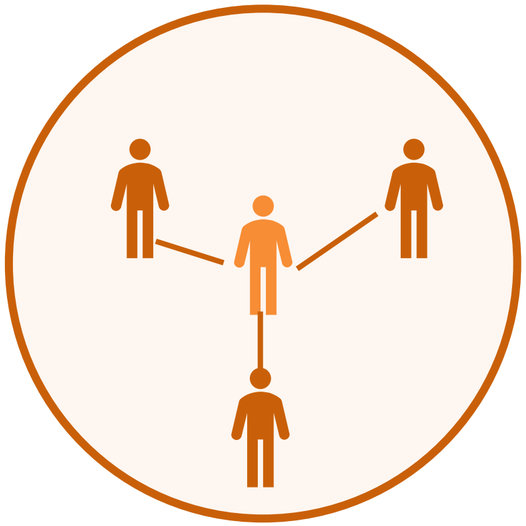
What will you learn?

- **How** to implement surveillance to track clusters including:
  - How to identify **patients with suspected cholera**
  - Which patients with suspected cholera to **test**
  - How often to **report** patients with suspected cholera

Background

Photo adapted from: WHO / Ali Ngethi

Cluster of cholera cases



- A **cluster** is when a group of cases:
  - Infected one another, **or**
  - Were infected with the same source
- More likely to occur at the **very early stages following the introduction of cholera** in a new geographic area

A cluster is a type of outbreak which calls for strong surveillance efforts to

- **Guide quick and highly targeted interventions**
- **Interrupt transmission before it spreads in the community**

Surveillance to track clusters

When clustered cholera transmission has been detected in a geographic area

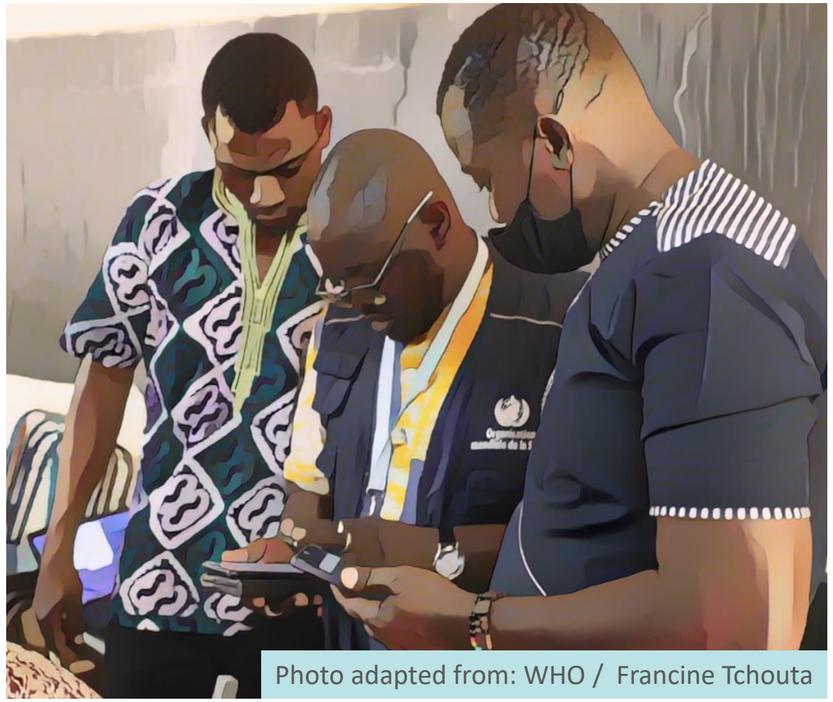


Photo adapted from: WHO / Francine Tchouta

- **Stay up-to-date**

- Health authorities regularly update health care workers on the **cholera situation in their geographic area**

- At any point in time, know:
  - The **cholera situation in your geographic area**
  - Whether surveillance is to track a cluster

Surveillance objective

Surveillance to track clusters is to orient quick and highly targeted interventions to stop transmission before it spreads in the community

***Identify, test, and report* patients with suspected cholera in accordance with the recommendations in this module**

- As long as there is clustered transmission
- If the situation changes, surveillance evolves

Learn about surveillance in other situations in Modules 3 & 4

Photo adapted from: WHO/Mulugeta Ayene

Case definition

Patients with suspected cholera:

➨ **Any patient with AWD (or who died from AWD)**

Learn how to recognize AWD in Module 2

NO criteria on age or severe dehydration

➨ Sensitive detection of suspected cases to effectively interrupt transmission

Photo adapted from: WHO/Fid Thompson

Testing to track clusters

All patients with suspected cholera are tested
Essential to understand clustered transmission and orient interventions accordingly

If RDTs are available

- RDTs are used to **triage** samples for laboratory testing

- **ALL patients** with suspected cholera are **tested by RDT**
- Samples from **ALL patients with RDT+ results** are sent to a laboratory for **confirmatory testing**

If RDTs are NOT available

- Samples are **not triaged** for laboratory testing

- Samples from **ALL patients** with suspected cholera are sent to a laboratory for **confirmatory testing**

Reporting cholera

Photo adapted from: WHO / Genna Print

Reporting cholera

If a patient with suspected cholera is seen at your facility, the standard information collected on this patient is reported to the health authority on the same day

- Reporting within a day is essential to permit timely interventions around cases

Time is key!

Learn about the standard information to be collected & reported in Module 2

- If on a given week, no patient with suspected cholera was seen in your facility
  - Report the **absence of cases** at the end of the week (**zero reporting**)
- To report, use the channels & mechanisms set at your facility (e.g., reporting focal point)

Wrap up

- **In geographic areas where there is a cluster of cholera cases, surveillance is to guide highly targeted interventions to interrupt transmission before it spreads in the community**
- Patients with suspected cholera are **any patients with AWD** (or who died from AWD)
- **All** patients with suspected cholera are **tested** for cholera
- Standard information on all patients with suspected cholera is **reported within 24 hours**
- If no patient with suspected cholera was seen on a given week, this is reported weekly

Quiz
time

Question 1

- **To track cholera clusters, a patient with suspected cholera is any patient:**

  a) Aged ≥ 2 years old with AWD

  b) With AWD and severe dehydration

  c) Aged ≥ 2 years old with AWD and severe dehydration

  d) With AWD

Question 1 – Answer

- **To track cholera clusters, a patient with suspected cholera is any patient:**

  a) Aged ≥ 2 years old with AWD

  b) With AWD and severe dehydration

  c) Aged ≥ 2 years old with AWD and severe dehydration

  d) With AWD

Question 2

To track cholera clusters:

(Select all that apply)

a) Any patient with suspected cholera is reported daily

b) Any patient with suspected cholera is reported weekly

c) The absence of patient with suspected cholera is reported daily

d) The absence of patient with suspected cholera is reported weekly

Question 2 – Answers

- **To track cholera clusters:**
  - **a) Any patient with suspected cholera is reported daily**
  - b) Any patient with suspected cholera is reported weekly
  - c) The absence of patient with suspected cholera is reported daily
  - **d) The absence of patient with suspected cholera is reported weekly**

Question 3

- **To track cholera clusters, any patient with AWD is tested for cholera:**

  a) True

  b) False

Question 3 – Answer

- **To track cholera clusters, any patient with AWD is tested for cholera:**

  a) **True**

  b) False

Together we can
#Endcholera
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