Cholera surveillance for health care workers

Module 4

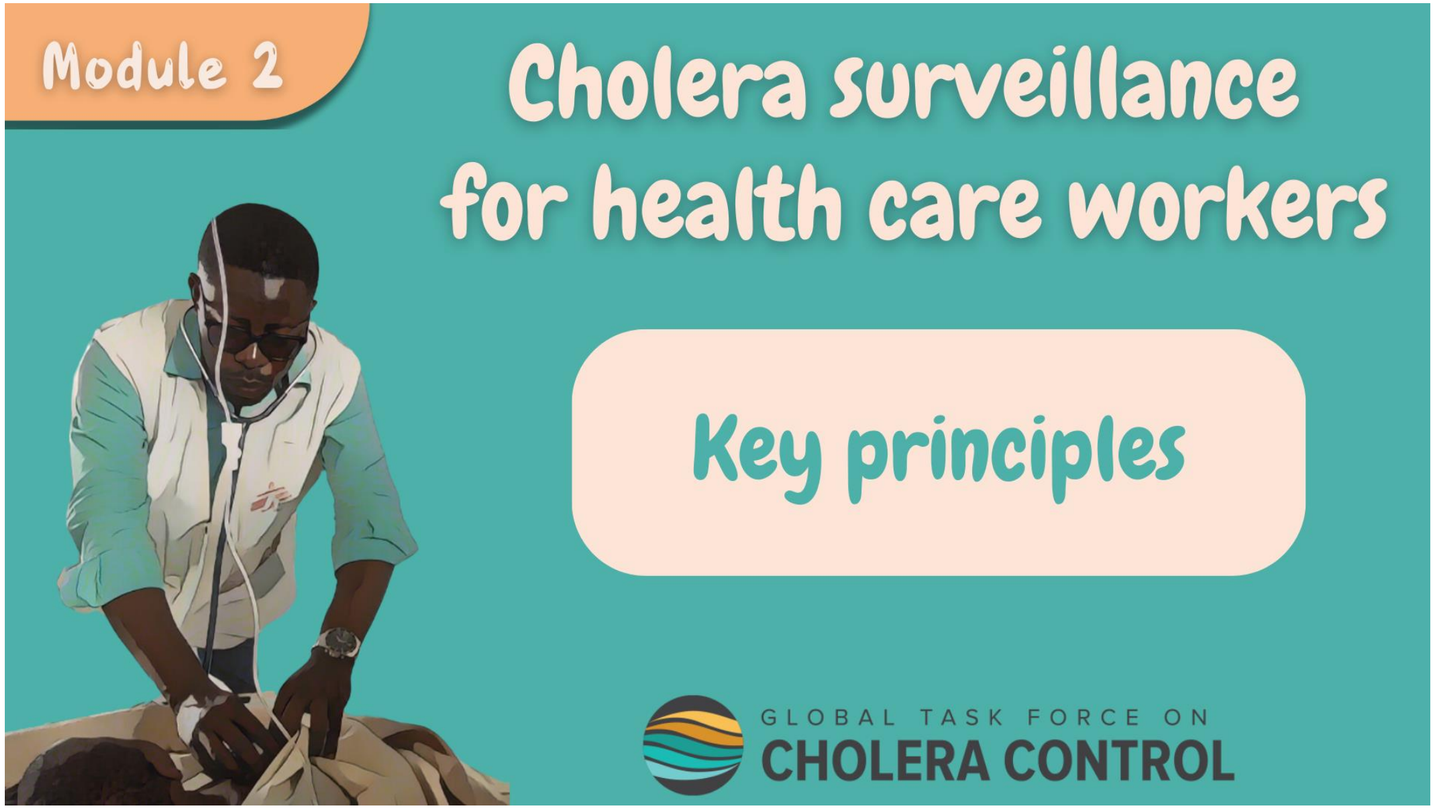
GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
CHOLERA CONTROL

Cholera surveillance for health care workers

Monitoring of outbreaks

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 monitor an outbreak 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/Billy Miaron

Surveillance for outbreak monitoring

When there is a cholera outbreak in a geographic area

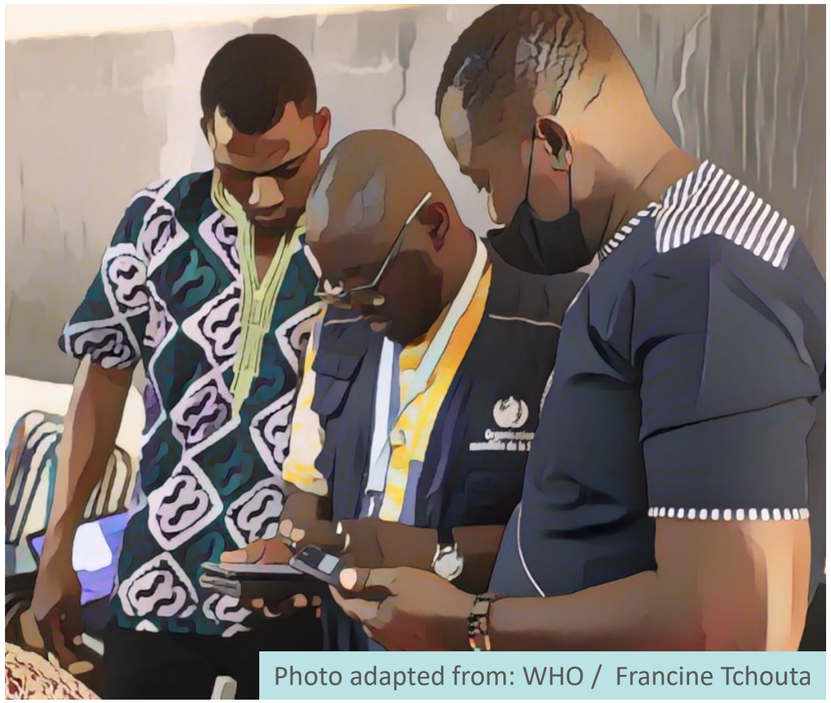


Photo adapted from: WHO / Francine Tchouta

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

- **Stay up-to-date**

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

Surveillance objective

Surveillance to monitor an outbreak generates information to guide multisectoral interventions to end the outbreak

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

- As long as there is an outbreak
- If the situation changes, surveillance evolves

Learn about surveillance in other situations in Modules 3 & 5

Photo adapted from: WHO /Mark Nieuwenhof

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

➨ Comprehensive overview of the outbreak to effectively guide the response

Testing for cholera

Photo adapted from: Raissa Karama Rwizibuka/Wellcome Trust

Principle for testing

Some of the patients with suspected cholera are tested

No need to test all

- Treatment plan depends on dehydration
  - **Not** on individual laboratory results

Necessary to test some

- Monitor outbreak trends
- Monitor circulating strain(s)
  - Including susceptibility to antimicrobials

Testing with RDTs

If RDTs ARE available at your facility

Each day, test with a RDT the first 3 patients with suspected cholera seen at your facility

- ✓ Case definition and time of arrival are the **only** criteria
- ✗ Do **not** apply any additional criteria (e.g., age, severity)

➡ **Repeat this every day throughout the outbreak**

- If **less than 3 patients** with suspected cholera are seen on a given day:
  - **Test all** of them
- If **no patient** with suspected cholera is seen on a given day:
  - **No test**

➡ Follow the directions of your health authority for laboratory testing on (some) patients RDT+

Testing without RDTs

If RDTs are NOT available at your facility

Each week, collect and send samples for testing on the first 3 patients with suspected cholera seen at your facility

- ✓ Case definition and time of arrival are the **only** criteria
- ✗ Do **not** apply any additional criteria (e.g., age, severity)

Repeat this every week throughout the outbreak

- If **less than 3 patients** with suspected cholera are seen on a given week:
  - **Collect samples on all** of them
- If **no patient** with suspected cholera is seen on a given week:
  - **Don't collect samples** for testing

Reporting cholera

Photo adapted from: WHO / Genna Print

Reporting cholera

Report standard information collected on all patients with suspected cholera seen at your facility to the health authority at the end of each week

Essential to monitor the evolution of the outbreak

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**)
- At the beginning or towards the end of the outbreak
  - Your health authority may request more frequent reporting (e.g., daily)
- To report, use the channels & mechanisms set at your facility (e.g., reporting focal point)

Wrap up

- **In geographic areas where there is a cholera outbreak, surveillance is to monitor the outbreak**
- Patients with suspected cholera are **any patients with AWD** (or who died from AWD)
- **SOME** of the patients with suspected cholera **are tested**
  - **If RDTs are available**, **first three patients** with suspected cholera **on each day**
  - **If RDTs are not available**, **first three patients** with suspected cholera **on each week**
- Standard information on all patients with suspected cholera is **reported weekly**
- If no patient with suspected cholera was seen, this is also reported weekly

Quiz
time

Question 1

- **To monitor a cholera outbreak, 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 monitor a cholera outbreak, 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 monitor a cholera outbreak:
(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 monitor a cholera outbreak:

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 monitor a cholera outbreak, any patient with AWD is tested for cholera:**

  a) True

  b) False

Question 3 – Answer

- **To monitor a cholera outbreak, any patient with AWD is tested for cholera:**

  a) True

  b) False

Together we can
#Endcholera
GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
CHOLERA CONTROL