

Cholera: what to do first

A print-ready fact sheet for clinics, classrooms and community groups.

Category	Infectious diseases
Translations	17 languages
Print format	A4 mono
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Produced for outbreak conditions and printable on a worn field printer without colour. Cholera kills within hours through fluid loss, and almost every death is preventable with rehydration begun early.

What to do

- Start oral rehydration immediately, before travelling. Do not wait to reach a treatment unit.
- Give as much as the person will drink, continuously.
- Isolate soiled clothing and bedding, and disinfect surfaces with chlorine solution.
- Report the suspected case to the nearest health facility the same day - one confirmed case is an outbreak.

Signs that mean go to a clinic

- Profuse watery stool, often described as looking like rice water.
- Vomiting with rapid weakness.
- Sunken eyes, dry mouth, very little or no urine.
- Collapse, or inability to drink - this needs intravenous fluid and immediate transfer.

Using this sheet

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