



DRAFT AGENDA

Background:

Although Cholera has been present in the Americas since 1991, there has been no outbreak in the Caribbean for at least 100 years in the Independent States and Overseas Territories. In October 2010, a severe outbreak of cholera was reported in Haiti. Since then cholera cases have been reported in the Dominican Republic and imported cases in the United States, Mexico and Venezuela.

Between 2006 and 2009, all Caribbean countries have worked with PAHO to prepare inter-sectoral National Preparedness Plans for a major health emergency of an Influenza Pandemic and have trained teams to investigate suspected cases or clusters of a communicable disease.

In November of 2010, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre based in Trinidad surveyed all English and Dutch speaking countries of the Caribbean to enquire on the status of national preparedness for a possible outbreak of cholera. The main findings showed that all the countries report that they have an emergency response plan that can be adapted for Cholera, namely the National Influenza Pandemic Plans. Other relevant findings include:

- Nineteen (19) countries have convened a national response team meeting to review provisions for a national response to Cholera and to identify any resources that may be needed to do so.
- Thirteen (13) countries have identified a location for the treatment of cholera cases and have initiated Health Promotion activities to promote food safety and hand washing.
- Fourteen (14) countries have strengthened their surveillance systems to detect any outbreaks that may signal the presence of Cholera. These include routine reports of acute watery diarrhoeas, alerting and preparing public health laboratories and issuing traveler notifications at ports of entry. This would enable prompt detection of suspected cases and early access to appropriate treatment.

This workshop aims to assist countries to review their national plans and with the opportunity to hear and interact with technical experts from the field, and to develop activities to strengthen their national capacity to respond to a health emergency such as cholera or other water / food borne disease.

Objectives:

- To increase national preparedness and response capacity for Health Emergencies with the focus on Cholera and other outbreaks of water and food borne diseases.
- To train key personnel in the main strategies of managing a Cholera outbreak
- To identify main areas for strengthening national response plans for health emergencies.

Target: Managers at national level who may be responsible for managing the response to a Health Emergency. Participants may be drawn from different sectors and may include surveillance, health services, health disaster, national disaster, environmental health, water and sanitation engineers, community mobilization, health promotion, risk communications, inter-sectoral coordination.

Day/Time	Sessions	Speakers
Day 1 (AM): Introduction - Public Health & Surveillance		
08:00 – 08:30 Registration of Participants		
Moderator: Nicole Wynter , PAHO/WHO		
0830 - 0900	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr Ernest Pate, PAHO/WHO Mr Roger Bellers, DFID
Moderator: Robert Lee , PAHO/WHO		
0900 - 0915	Introduction of participants & overview of workshop	Lealou Reballos, PAHO/WHO
0915 - 1015	Keynote Presentation: Cholera - Description of the public health threat and the principal control measures; What should countries do to prepare for an outbreak	Pradip Bardhan, ICCDRB
1015 - 1045	IHR and cholera Preparations in the Caribbean and international coordination issues	Eldonna Boisson, CAREC Colin Browne, PAHO/WHO
1045 - 1115	BREAK	
1115 - 1145	Surveillance Systems for Diarrhoeal Disease Surveillance & Cholera. The changing parameters of surveillance in an outbreak and the laboratory provisions	Leslie Edwards, CAREC
1145 - 1215	Preparing for a Cholera Outbreak: Surveillance Perspectives from the Dominican Republic	Ronald Skewes, MOH DOR
1215 - 1240	Cholera Vaccination (via Elluminate)	Andrea Vicari, PAHO/WHO
1240 - 1300	Open forum (Q&A)	
1300 - 1400	LUNCH	
Day 1 (PM): Strategies for Planning		
Moderator: Sally Edwards , PAHO/WHO		
1400 - 1500	Preparations for a Cholera Outbreak: Establishing Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) and Oral Rehydration promotion (The Dominican Republic Experience)	Jacqueline Gernay, PAHO/WHO
1500 - 1530	Infection control: General & Specific Considerations for Cholera (The Dominican Republic Experience)	Jacqueline Gernay, PAHO/WHO
1530 - 1600	Managing a situation room - EOC & Incident Command System	Robert Lee, PAHO/WHO

1600 - 1630	Open forum (Q&A) and Wrap up	Sally Edwards, PAHO/WHO
Day 2 (AM): Preparation for Health Emergency Events		
Moderator: Eldonna Boisson, CAREC		
0830 – 0845	Recap & Introduction of day’s agenda	Eldonna Boisson, CAREC
0845 - 0945	Water -Sanitation and Environmental Health measures	Homero Silva, PAHO/WHO
0945 - 1015	The Role of NGOs and Health Promotion	Denise Carter Taylor, MOH Barbados
1015 - 1045	Break	
1045 - 1115	Risk Communication for Health Events Messaging for special audiences : Tourism Industry, Food Handlers, Householders, Decision Makers	Renee Franklyn Peroune
1115 - 1215	Panel Discussion: Managing Risk Perception in a health emergency	Pradip Bardham, Dana Van Alphen, Renee Franklyn Peroune, Enric Freixa
1245 - 1300	Open forum (Q&A)	
1300 - 1400	LUNCH	
Day 2 (PM): Crisis Management in Health Events		
Moderator: Homero Silva, PAHO/WHO		
1400-1430	Coordination of the national and international response: alert and response mechanism Dead Body Management	Dana van Alphen, PAHO/WHO
1430 - 1500	Challenges in a Cholera outbreak Disinfection and Logistics	Sally Edwards, PAHO/WHO
1500 - 1530	National cholera planning (what country plan should include)	Robert Lee, PAHO/WHO
1530 - 1600	Group Work: Lessons learnt from the Pandemic to be used for Cholera: The goal of this session is to allow countries to confirm what resources are in place and what gaps may need to be filled.	Lealou Reballos, PAHO/WHO
1600 - 1630	Open forum (Q&A) and Preparation for simulation	Paul Saunders
Day 3: Adapting National Plans for new Health Events		
Moderator: Paul Saunders		
830 – 900	Introduction of day’s agenda and simulation procedures	Paul Saunders
0900 -1100	Simulation to test coordination of response, managing press and political communication	Paul Saunders Sam Vigersky, PAHO/WHO

1100 - 1200	Presentations	
1200 - 1300	LUNCH	
Moderator: Lealou Reballos , PAHO/WHO		
1300 - 1500	Group Work: Next steps - Identifying gaps in country plans. Six month workplan	Enric Freixa, PAHO/WHO
1500 - 1600	Presentations	
1600 - 1630	Open forum (Q&A) and Closing	