



**Sunday, October 24, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #3 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

As the confirmed cholera outbreak in Haiti enters its fourth day, the Ministry of Health and Health Cluster Partners are relentlessly working to treat patients, contain the outbreak's spread, and to put in place contingency plans should the situation worsen. In the Artibonite department, Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Public Information have all established operational clusters in St. Marc. The Medecins San Frontieres (MSF) teams continue to work with the Haitian Ministry of Health at St. Nicolas Hospital.

The government continues to lead the response and is working closely with MINUSTAH, the Humanitarian Community, and PAHO/WHO. As of Sunday at 6:00pm, 253 fatalities have been reported and 3015 cases have been confirmed. During the two day stretch between October 21 and October 22 the largest number of hospitalizations were reported so far during the epidemic. To date, 46% of total deaths have occurred in health facilities and 54% have taken place in the community.

As a means for increasing surveillance to more rapidly characterize the epidemic, tests continued to be carried out on suspected cases in the Nord and Sud department. Five cases have been confirmed in the Ouest Department. Currently there are 12 cholera treatment centers being built to support isolation and treatment of cases: six in Artibonite, one in Central, and five in Port-au-Prince.

Individual and community based prevention measures such as distribution of soap, water purification tablets and rehydration salts are ongoing. Tens of thousands of liters of chlorinated water are being sent to affected areas for widespread distribution. Messaging on steps to prevent the spread of cholera through hand hygiene continues use the radio and fliers and announcements in settlement sites. In Port-au-Prince, MSF is undertaking necessary measures and preparations should people present with cholera-related symptoms with the goal of increasing their capacity to 300 beds in the coming days.

The situation continues to evolve each day, and officials are putting in place plans for a worst case scenario involving a national outbreak.

PAHO/WHO Response

- PAHO continues the mobilization of experts in various fields including epidemiologists, risk communication, case management, laboratory, water and sanitation, logistics, and LSS/SUMA experts to both Haiti and Dominican Republic to provide technical support to MSPP and to strengthen the PAHO offices.

- PAHO currently has medicines and supplies to cover initial treatment needs in stock at the PROMESS warehouse near the Port-au-Prince airport. Additional resources, including supplies that will ensure provision of safe drinking water, have been estimated based on new information and are in the process of being procured.
- The PAHO/WHO website has been populated with multilingual guidelines to provide general guideline during a cholera outbreak. The following documents readily available in PAHO's website: Acute diarrhoeal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps; First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhea; Cholera fact sheet; Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness; and, Cholera: prevention and control. Other relevant documents are listed in the Resources section below.
- PAHO remains in close collaboration with health cluster partners, including the Cuban medical mission, MSF, MINUSTAH, OCHA, USAID, USCDC, UNICEF and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to respond to the outbreak. PAHO is also coordinating closely with health officials in the U.S. and Canada, including with HHS, the State Department, the CDC, NIH, and the FDA, and in Canada, with Health Canada, PHAC, and CIDA.

Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae 0:1*.
- Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.
- There are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100 000–120 000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.

Resources

- [Haiti OneResponse](#).
- [PAHO Responds to Cholera Outbreak in Haiti](#) (press release).
- [World Health Organization's dedicated section to cholera](#) (technical guidelines).
- [Pan American Health Organization's](#) main website.
- [World Health Organization's](#) main website.
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti, you can also check the [PAHO](#) and [WHO](#) channels in Twitter.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center Situation Report will issue situation reports as the situation requires.

Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org
[Click here](#) to view previous situation reports from the PAHO Emergency Operations Center.