



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Cholera Confirmed in Colombia

On 21 July 2004, the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Social Protection in Colombia confirmed the isolation of *Vibrio cholerae* O1 *El Tor*, *Ogawa* serotype in stools of a man from the Candellillas district, in the municipality of Tumaco (Nariño). Symptoms started on 11 July 2004.

The epidemiologic field investigation identified one additional case from which *Vibrio cholerae* was isolated in the same district. Examination of the water from Quespi creek, which flows into the Mira River and supplies the water to this district and to San Andrés de Tumaco, yielded a positive result for *Vibrio cholerae*.

On 17 July, the Departmental Institute of Health in Nariño mobilized a commission to the Municipality of Tumaco to jointly evaluate and prepare a Contingency Plan for intervention in public health surveillance (epidemiology, patient care, and laboratory), basic sanitation (food protection, water and excreta disposal) and for the strengthening of information, education and communication actions.

In light of the importance of this event, and due to this bacterium's high potential for causing outbreaks, prevention and control measures have been targeted toward the municipalities of the Pacific coast in general and all the municipalities in the department of Nariño.

As of 12 August, no more clinical cases of cholera have been confirmed nor have been isolated in other samples, and no deaths have been registered.

Source: Ministry of Social Protection, Colombia, 11 August 2004.