

# Cholera Preparedness and Response for Health Facilities and Feeding Centres

- **Cholera can lead to death within hours**
- Early treatment with fluids such as oral rehydration salts (ORS) saves lives
- Cholera is spread through contamination of drinking water and food from stools or vomit from an infected person, and sometimes contaminated surfaces
- Spread can be prevented by treating water (eg chlorination), washing hands, decontaminating areas infected by diarrhea and vomit and making sure food is washed with clean water and well cooked

## Be prepared: Staff

- ☑ Educate all staff on the basics of cholera so they know what to do and how to report suspected cases
- ☑ Make one person responsible for coordinating cholera preparedness and response.
- ☑ Have a supply of ORS sachets and safe drinking water available (and easily accessible at all times) to start rehydrating immediately. Have a way of measuring 1 liter ready to ensure the proper doses of ORS.
- ☑ Keep the kitchen clean. Make sure all kitchen staff wash their hands with running water and soap or 0.05% chlorine solution\* before handling food, eating and after toilet use. Only kitchen staff should enter the kitchen.
- ☑ Ensure only treated water is used for drinking and cooking purposes.
- ☑ Maintain or install basic WASH facilities: soap or chlorine solution to wash hands, treated drinking water and latrines for patients and or staff.
- ☑ Every shift should have 1 staff member trained on making chlorine solutions.\*
- ☑ Have a stock of HTH or bleach, soap, buckets, measuring jars for preparing chlorine solutions and plastic backpack sprayer for disinfection.
- ☑ Give hygiene education and cholera awareness to all patients and caretakers. (preferably a WASH kit containing soap, a household water treatment device and safe water storage is given to all children of feeding centers).



## Be prepared: Patients & Caretakers

- ☑ Dispose of all child stools immediately and safely in latrines. (children potties can help to ensure a clean environment, after use children potties should be cleaned with a 0.2% chlorine solution\*)
- ☑ Wash your hands with running water and soap or 0.05% chlorine solution\* before eating and or handling food and after toilet use.

**\* NOTE: SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE 0.05% and 0.2% CHLORINE SOLUTIONS**

# If you suspect someone has Cholera...

## Immediately...

- ✓ Seek professional healthcare as soon as possible as cholera can kill in hours. Continue ORS while going to the health centre.
- ✓ Separate the suspected cholera patients from other patients.
- ✓ Allocate a separate latrine for the patient and disinfect the latrine slab and door handles with a 0.2% chlorine solution at least twice a day.
- ✓ Inform caretakers of the patient, while looking for immediate medical attention for the patient (Cholera treatment Centre).

## While caring for a patient with suspected Cholera...

- ✓ Wash hands with soap or a 0.05% chlorine solution if in contact with patient's vomit and or stool as they are highly contagious.
- ✓ Wash caretakers' clothes in a 0.05% solution and dry in direct sunlight. If no chlorine is available boil contaminated clothes. Only when boiling or disinfection with chlorine is not possible; one should wash contaminated clothes with soap or leave them to dry in direct sunlight. Never wash infected clothes near drinking water sources!
- ✓ Wash toilets and places the person might have had diarrhea or have been vomiting with a 0.2% chlorine solution or soap.
- ✓ Wash chairs, dishes, etc used by patient with a 0.05% chlorine solution and dry in direct sunlight. (if no chlorine is available direct sunlight in a dry environment will be a very effective disinfectant).
- ✓ Install handwashing facilities at the entrance and exit of the facility and ensure patients and staff are washing their hands before entering or leaving the compound.
- ✓ Give hygiene education and cholera awareness to all patients and caretakers.

## After one suspected case of Cholera or acute watery diarrhea...

- ✓ Place a caretaker near the latrine to make sure everyone washes their hands. Only around 20% of the people affected by cholera will show there may be more infected people who can transmit cholera without you knowing.
- ✓ After one suspected cholera case, latrines (latrine slab door-handles etc) should be disinfected with a 0.2% solution on a daily basis.



## HOW TO MAKE A CHLORINE SOLUTION

### 0.05 %

With HTH 70%:

- 1 tablespoon in 20 litres of water

With Bleach 5 % (Sodium hypochlorite solution):

- 14 tablespoons in 20 litres of water
- ¼ of cup in 20 litres of water

### 0.2%

With Chlorine HTH 70%:

- 1 tablespoon in 5 litres of water

With Bleach 5 % (Sodium hypochlorite solution):

- 20 tablespoons in 5 litres of water

Note: 1 table spoon = 10 mL, 1 cup = 200 mL