



Published Date: 2010-08-25 14:00:04

Subject: PRO/EDR> Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2010 (18)

Archive Number: 20100825.2993

CHOLERA, DIARRHEA AND DYSENTERY UPDATE 2010 (18)

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases

<<http://www.isid.org>>

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[1] Cholera - Pakistan (Baluchistan) 

Date: Tue 24 Aug 2010

Source: GEO TV [edited]

<<http://www.geo.tv/8-24-2010/70416.htm>>

At least 8 people including 2 children died during a breakout of cholera and diarrhea after deadly floods multiplied sufferings of already ravaged people in Jaffarabad District in Baluchistan, Geo News reported.

The district has been disconnected from other parts of country for the last 11 days, while abject scarcity of drinking water and shortages of food and medicines have let situation go from bad to worse.

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[Baluchistan is in southwestern Pakistan. Exactly how many cases/deaths of diarrhea are due to cholera is not clear but significant diarrheal illnesses almost always occur in the wake of such catastrophes. - Mod.LL]

[The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Pakistan is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/03Bd>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[2] Cholera, diarrhea - India (Jammu and Kashmir)

Date: Mon 23 Aug 2010

Source: Greater Kashmir [edited]

<<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2010/Aug/24/diarrhea-patients-in-budgam-show-cholera-symptoms-18.asp>>

The diarrhea, which claimed 2 lives and left over 700 ill in central Kashmir's Budgam district, could be cholera as the patients have the same symptoms and the authorities have started treatment on those lines.

Sources told Greater Kashmir that the preliminary investigations suggested that the disease was cholera and the health department was trying to hush up the issue to avoid international concern.

In the past few days, over 700 people in Budgam villages including Reyar, Waterhaal, Kralnar, Harpanzu, and Shoolipora were hit by the disease while over 150 people are still undergoing treatment at health care centers.

[Byline: M Hyderi]

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[Jammu and Kashmir state can be located on the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of India at <<http://healthmap.org/r/03Be>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[3] Cholera - China (Hong Kong) ex Indonesia

Date: Sat 21 Aug 2010

Source: 7th Space, Government of Hong Kong SAR report [edited]

<http://7thspace.com/headlines/354618/imported_case_of_cholera_under_investigation.html>

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (21 Aug 2010) investigated an imported case of cholera and reminds people to observe good personal, food, and environmental hygiene, whether in Hong Kong or traveling abroad. The case involved a 30-year-old woman who came to Hong Kong from Indonesia on 17 Aug 2010. The woman developed watery diarrhea and vomiting the following day.

She attended Kwong Wah Hospital on 19 Aug 2010 and was admitted for further management. She is now in stable condition. Laboratory tests today showed that her stool specimen yielded positive result for *Vibrio cholerae*_ O1 Ogawa.

Her close contacts have no symptoms of cholera.

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[As a short review, the flagellar (H) antigens of *V. cholerae* are shared with many water vibrios and, therefore, are of no use in distinguishing strains causing epidemic cholera. The O (somatic) antigens, however, do distinguish strains of *V. cholerae* into 139 known serotypes. Almost all of these strains of *V. cholerae* are nonvirulent. Until the emergence of the Bengal (O139) strain (which is "non-O1"), a single serotype, designated O1, has been responsible for epidemic cholera.

There are 3 distinct O1 biotypes, named Ogawa, Inaba, and Hikojima, each of which may display the "classical" or El Tor phenotype. The

biotypes are distinguished by their expression of surface antigens A, B, and C. Ogawa contains antigens A and B; Inaba antigens A and C; and Hikojima antigens A, B, and C. The latter serotype is relatively rare. - Mod.LL]

[Hong Kong can be seen on the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map at <<http://healthmap.org/r/026P>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[4] Cholera - Uganda (Butaleja)

Date: Mon 23 Aug 2010

Source: The New Vision (Uganda) [edited]

<<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/17/729629>>

A total of 3 people have died following a cholera outbreak in Butaleja district. The district health officer, Dr Kenneth Mweru, said 20 people were admitted at Nabiganda Cholera Treatment Centre in critical condition. He noted that health authorities were monitoring and sensitising the public on ways of preventing the disease.

Mweru said 6 of the 1st victims of cholera could have contracted the disease from the funeral of one of the people who had died of the disease in Busolwe town council.

[Byline: Moses Bikala]

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[The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Uganda is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/03Bf>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[5] Cholera - Nigeria (northern states)

Date: Tue 24 Aug 2010

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP) [edited]

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hTBOgMuG033bpib_aIlz8kVJ2niw>

The death toll from cholera in northern Nigeria has risen to 283 from 231 within a week, according to various official figures.

The figure of those infected by cholera in the past 2 weeks has also risen above 5000 from the earlier 4600 figure announced last week [week of 16 Aug 2010], according to officials.

The latest outbreak was recorded in northeastern Yobe State where 42 people died in the past week from a disease health officials said was a form of gastro-enteritis, characterized by vomiting and diarrhea, which are also cholera symptoms.

"We have recorded an outbreak of gastroenteritis in Yobe State in the last week which has killed 42 people and infected 443 others," Isa Adamu, an official of the WHO in the state, said. "The disease has to do with watery stool and vomiting which physically looks like cholera, but we do not have the reagents in Yobe State for laboratory analysis to confirm if it is cholera."

Cholera has also killed at least 4 people in a village in Kaduna State in the past week as a result of contamination of open wells, state health commissioner Charity Shekari told AFP.

In neighboring Katsina State, the disease killed 6 people and infected 50 others in the last week, according to Bishir Babba, a local official.

Last Thursday, 19 Aug 2010, health minister Onyebuchi Chukwu said 231 people had died of cholera while 4600 others were infected in some states, particularly in the north with Borno, Bauchi, and Adamawa being worst hit.

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[6] Cholera - Nigeria (Adamawa) 
Date: Sun 22 Aug 2010
Source: The Sun News [edited]
<<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2010/aug/22/national-22-08-2010-005.htm>>

The epidemic of the water-borne disease, cholera, continues to ravage parts of northern Nigeria as no fewer than 20 persons, particularly women and children, have been reported dead in Adamawa State in a fresh outbreak. 168 persons have also been reported hospitalized in various parts of the state. In the Southern parts, in Ganye II, of Ganye Local Government Area, 10 persons, including an 85-year-old woman, died of the disease at the weekend [21-22 Aug 2010], according to the principal medical officer of Ganye General Hospital, Dr Daniel Tizhe.

Dr Tizhe told our correspondent that the outbreak of the disease was reported to the hospital on 1 Aug 2010 and had treated 69 victims while 10 of them died before they got to the hospital from the village.

The Director of Primary Healthcare in Ganye council, Alhaji Yakubu Madi Nekenjumi, said he suspected the disease must have been spread by residents from neighboring Cameroon Republic, which he said claimed many lives in that country. In Madagali Local Government in the northern part of the state, 10 persons out of 129 patients hospitalized have died. The victims are from Sukur, Palan, Duhu, and Gulak villages.

[Byline: David Molomo]

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[The states mentioned in the 2 reports above can be seen on the map at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/nigeria.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Nigeria is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/01Q4>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

[7] Cholera - Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger
Date: Mon 23 Aug 2010
Source: United Nations News Centre [edited]
<<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35695>>

An outbreak of cholera in the 3 neighboring West African countries of Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger has infected nearly 4000 people and killed more than 260 others since May [2010], the United Nations health agency reported today [23 Aug 2010], blaming the epidemic on

poor hygiene and inadequate access to clean water.

Northern Cameroon, where more than 2800 cases -- including more than 200 deaths -- have been reported, is the worst affected area in the Lake Chad Basin, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

In Nigeria, some 830 cases and 30 deaths have been reported, while 240 cases and 16 deaths have occurred in Niger.

"We know that cholera is [a] food-borne disease. Food that has been in contact with contaminated water is, of course, at high risk of transmitting cholera to people," said Claire-Lise Chaignat, WHO's cholera coordinator. "Good food hygiene is actually very important for preventing the disease from spreading," she told UN Radio.

Ms. Chaignat said WHO and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) were working together to combat the cholera epidemic, providing those affected with oral rehydration salts to prevent deaths related to diarrhoea, distributing chlorine for water treatment and carrying out health education campaigns.

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[8] Cholera - Kenya (Nyanza)
Date: Fri 20 Aug 2010
Source: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Kenya News Agency (KNA) report [edited]
<<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=65945>>

To date 5 people have died in Kuria West District in what doctors suspect to be a cholera outbreak in the area. 3 of the victims died in hospitals while the 2 others succumbed to acute diarrhea and vomiting in Masaba and Maberera divisions.

At least 18 other people are admitted to various hospitals in Kuria West and Migori Districts with similar symptoms and are still receiving treatment.

Kuria DC James Mugwe said the medical workers had taken samples from the patients to Kisumu for tests to ascertain the outbreak of the disease.

It is suspected that the outbreak occurred following an acute water shortage that has hit Kehancha and Isebania border towns for the past 2 weeks, forcing the residents to use contaminated water from the polluted Ragana river.

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[The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Kenya is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/012e>>. - Sr.Tech.Ed.MJ]

See Also

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