# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION</th>
<th>INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHOLERA</strong></td>
<td><em>Vibrio cholerae O1 &amp; O139</em></td>
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## PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION

**KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION**
- Read about Cholera in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Cholera in the CD Manual.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)
  - Part 2: Cholera (DHHS/EPI #6)

## CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION

**COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION**
- A report of *V. cholera* in a North Carolina resident without a travel history should be questioned.
- If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary).
- Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.
- Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.
- Before contacting the patient, verify what information the healthcare provider has shared with the patient/family.

**REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION**
- Obtain laboratory reports specific to this disease. **Verify serogroup is O1 or O139.**
- Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.
- Ensure the isolate is sent to the SLPH for confirmatory testing. Notify the SLPH of impending specimen. Use the following link for specimen submission information:
  [http://slph.state.nc.us/microbiology/Cholera.asp](http://slph.state.nc.us/microbiology/Cholera.asp)

**APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION**
- Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.
### IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES

#### ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE
- If potential source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information (focus on travel history and seafood consumption).
- Meal companions, for the 5 days prior to onset of symptoms in patient, should be interviewed.

#### IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES
- If source of exposure is suspected to be contaminated shellfish notify Shellfish Sanitation Section (NC DENR) immediately of all suspect or confirmed cases. Contact information:
  - NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section (252) 726-6827
  - NC DENR, Division of Marine Fisheries (252) 726-7021
- Cooperate with NC DENR, Shellfish Sanitation Section to stop distribution and/or trace back any potentially contaminated products or foods.
- Use the CDC website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to teach at risk people about the disease.

### REPORTING INVESTIGATION

#### REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)
- Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.
- Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.

#### CASE FINDING
- Active surveillance of close contacts to cholera patient (persons who shared food and drink) from 5 days of last exposure.
- Chemoprophylaxis of close contacts and household members is indicated if there is high likelihood of secondary transmission.
- Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
- If two or more cases are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of cholera.
- If indicated, submit outbreak summary report within 30 days from close of outbreak. Refer to Outbreak Investigation section of the CD Manual for additional guidance on Outbreak Summary Report.
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<tr>
<td><strong>STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING</strong></td>
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<td>- Verify the laboratory test results of all cases by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing.</td>
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<td>- You will have to specify on the Special Bacteriology form DHHS T806 to test for Vibrio species. Use the following link to obtain form: <a href="http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-T806.pdf">http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-T806.pdf</a></td>
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<th><strong>RISK COMMUNICATION</strong></th>
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<td>- Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile case.</td>
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<td>- Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release.</td>
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<td>- NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</td>
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