

Interim Position Statement

11/10/10

Committee: Infectious Diseases

Title: Temporary immediate (urgent – within 24 hrs) notification for cholera

Statement of the Problem:

At the 2009 annual CSTE meeting, CSTE and CDC established procedures for standard and immediate notification of cases of nationally notifiable diseases (09-SI-04). Also at the 2009 annual meeting, Cholera was classified as a disease that fit into the “standard notification category” (<http://www.cste.org/ps2009/09-ID-03.pdf>). CDC has requested that CSTE implement immediate reporting for cholera to facilitate response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti.

Statement of the desired actions to be taken:

1. Cholera should be temporarily added to the list of nationally notifiable conditions that are immediately notifiable (urgent – notification within 24 hrs).
2. CSTE should request that States and Territories immediately begin to use the notification procedures described in Position Statement 09-SI-04.
3. CDC should utilize the notification and response procedures outlined in Position Statement 09-SI-04.
4. Cholera will be immediately notifiable until the 2011 CSTE Annual Meeting or until rescinded by the CSTE Executive Board.

Excerpts of Notification Procedures from Attachments 1 and 2 of Position Statement 09-SI-04 – please see those documents for full procedures

<http://www.cste.org/ps2009/09-SI-04.pdf>

How to contact the CDC EOC:

Immediate notification should occur through voice contact by the State/Territorial Epidemiologist (or delegate) with the CDC EOC Duty Officer. The CDC EOC phone number is 770-488-7100 and is available 24/7. For “urgent” conditions, States/Territories should contact the EOC within 24 hours after becoming aware of the condition that meets the case status.

CDC response:

The EOC Duty Officer will relay details of the notification to the appropriate CDC official. For “urgent” conditions, the CDC official will return the call to the State/Territory within 4 hours of the EOC receiving the call.

Public Health Impact:

An active outbreak of cholera is occurring in Haiti and there is a risk that travelers between the U.S. and Haiti could introduce cholera into U.S. communities. Although sanitation systems in the U.S. should prevent most waterborne transmission in the U.S., transmission could occur by other routes. Prompt public health detection and response can help prevent transmission within U.S. communities. Identifying the risk of cholera in travelers will also assist CDC in communicating the risk of cholera to travelers to Haiti.

Coordination:

Agencies for Response:

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