



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT

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CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

The Ministry of Health wishes to confirm a cholera outbreak currently affecting parts of the country. Cholera is a highly infectious waterborne disease caused by a bacteria known as *Vibrio cholera*. The disease is contracted through consuming food or water contaminated with the bacteria.

Symptoms include sudden onset of severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and severe dehydration, often appearing within 2 hours to 5 days after infection. Cholera is a serious disease that can lead to rapid dehydration and potentially death if left untreated. Prompt medical attention is therefore important for persons suspected to be infected with cholera.

Current Situation:

As of 6th April 2025, a total of **97 cholera cases**, including **six fatalities** (Case Fatality Rate: 6.2%), have been reported in **three counties: Migori, Kisumu, and Nairobi**.

- **Migori County:** 53 cases and 1 death reported. Affected sub-counties include Suna East, Suna West, Kuria East, and Kuria West. Most patients have recovered; two remain hospitalized.
- **Kisumu County:** 32 cases and 4 deaths reported. Affected sub-counties: Nyando and Muhoroni.
- **Nairobi County:** 12 cases and 1 death. Affected sub-counties: Kasarani, Embakasi East, Embakasi Central, Roysambu, Kibra, and Dagoretti South.

Ongoing Response Measures:

The Ministry, in collaboration with County Governments, is undertaking the following interventions:

- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Active case search, contact tracing, and rapid response deployment at both national and county levels.
- **Health worker Training:** Sensitization of health care workers on surveillance, case management, water sanitation, hygiene, and risk communication.
- **Risk Communication & Community Engagement:** Dissemination of information using community health promoters, administrative officers, media, and distribution of IEC materials and videos.
- **Water Hygiene and Sanitation Measures:** Household water treatment, hygiene enforcement, and food safety measures following field investigations revealing consumption of untreated water.
- **Case Management:** Testing of suspected cases, treatment of confirmed cases, and prophylaxis for close contacts.

Recommended Public Health Actions:

1. Personal Hygiene:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and clean water, especially after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, and after caring for the sick.
- Set up accessible handwashing stations in public places with clean water and soap, or hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol content).

2. Safe Water and Sanitation:

- Drink only clean water (boiled or chlorinated). Avoid untreated water from open sources like rivers and lakes.
- Store water in clean, covered containers.
- Dispose of waste properly to avoid water contamination.
- Avoid open defecation and maintain clean, functional latrines.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces, especially those used for food preparation.

3. Food Safety:

- Wash hands and sanitize surfaces and utensils before preparing food.

- Use clean water for cooking and washing produce.
- Cook all food thoroughly, especially meat and fish.
- Store food in clean containers, separate raw and cooked items, and reheat leftovers thoroughly.

4. Early Health Seeking:

- Cholera can cause rapid dehydration and death. At the first signs of diarrhea, start taking Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and seek immediate medical care from the nearest health facility.
- Avoid self-medication and traditional remedies.

The Ministry of Health reassures the public that the country is adequately prepared to manage and contain this outbreak. We are on high alert in all Counties, surveillance activities have been stepped up, as well as intensified community awareness to ensure that any alerts are responded to in a timely manner.

The Ministry remains committed to ensure that we safeguard the health of our communities, and that every Kenyan is protected from emerging public health threats.



**Hon. Aden Duale, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY**