



## Situation Report on Cholera Outbreak in Ghana 2 November 2016

### I. Key Highlights

- Ten (10) new cases of cholera have been reported from Cape Coast on 2 November 2016, bringing the cumulative number of cases to 172 [5 historical cases have been added, accounting for the extra cases].
- The Deputy Minister of Health, the WHO Representative, and the Director of Public Health held a press briefing on 2 November 2016 to update the media fraternity and the general public on the status of cholera outbreak in Cape Coast, the control measures being undertaken, and the preventive measures to be taken by the communities. This is one of various periodic information products to be disseminated to the media houses and the public.

### II. Situation update

The outbreak of cholera in Cape Coast Metropolitan, Central region is exhibiting an early indication of declining, with 10 new cases reported on 2 November 2016. The total caseload stands at 172 with zero death. Five (5) historical cases that were registered in one health facility the previous day have been added to the line list, thus responsible for the additional 5 cases. The outbreak is still largely circumscribed to Cape Coast Metropolitan, though 2 other districts at the periphery of the Metropolitan have reported a total of three cholera cases (two from one district and one from the other).

### III. Ongoing activities

#### Coordination

- The NTCC has developed Cholera Contingency Plan to serve as a guidance document for the response and resource mobilization tool.
- Operations of the sub-committees continue to improve as time goes on, however, the regional health directorate team need to be more involved and take the leadership mantle.

#### Case management

- Two hospitals, University of Cape Coast and Cape Coast Teaching hospitals, serve as the major cholera treatment centres. Five other smaller health facilities within the Metropolitan, with handful of beds serve as treatment units. There is need to designate and establish proper cholera treatment centre(s).
- All the cholera patients are being treated free of costs, a government policy for managing outbreaks.
- All health facilities have been supplied with adequate medicines and medical supplies including intravenous fluids, antibiotics, etc.

## **Surveillance/ laboratory**

- Seven (7) Ghana Red Cross volunteers have been trained and attached to the health facilities serving as cholera treatment centres to collect real time information from new cases and immediately notify the WASH team to promptly deliver the WASH interventions in the households where the cases came from. This structure will also help to identify contacts and relay the information to the surveillance team to conduct follow up.
- Case detection, recording and reporting of cases at the health facility level is being conducted; case investigations and line lists are being completed.

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- Nineteen (19) public toilets within Cape Coast Metropolitan have been disinfected by the WASH team.
- Eight (8) hand wash stations have been installed in public places including markets and public toilets.
- Fifteen (15) schools within Cape Coast Metropolitan have been visited and public health education and hygiene promotion conducted to pupils/students and teachers. All schools in the Metropolitan have been visited.
- Sixteen (16) households and 1 school where new cases emerged from have been disinfected and other WASH interventions delivered.
- 140,000 tablet of chlorine (*Aqua-tabs*) have been supplied to 4 districts for household water treatment.
- Public health education and promotion was conducted at AAK community centre, one of the districts adjoining the Metropolitan that reported two cases of cholera.

## **Social mobilization**

- The three local FM radio stations have stepped up the frequency of airing cholera prevention and control messages.
- School Health Education Program (SHEP) has been drafted into the risk communication group to carry out sensitization on cholera prevention and control in schools.
- The communication group worked with Ghana Education Service to prepare and distribute circular letter alerting all schools of the ongoing cholera outbreaks and providing guidance on the measures to make.
- Twenty (20) school-based food vendors have been sensitised on food safety issues and cholera prevention and control measures.
- The WhatsApp platform continues to disseminate key health education messages.

## **IV. Major gaps**

- The discussion to designate proper cholera treatment centres has not been concluded, thus the infrastructural inadequacies still persist including lack of appropriate cholera beds.
- With fully fledged interventions taking shape, the need for operational funds becomes critical.

## **V. Conclusion and Next Steps**

The outbreak of cholera in Cape Coast Metropolitan is still active. Implementation of outbreak containment measures are going on.

## VI. Contacts

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