



## CHOLERA

### WHAT IS CHOLERA?

CHOLERA IS A BACTERIAL DISEASE THAT AFFECTS THE INTESTINES. IT IS CAUSED BY A GERM CALLED *Vibrio cholera*.

### WHO GETS CHOLERA?

CHOLERA IS RARE, BUT THOSE WHO GET SICK MOST OFTEN ARE PEOPLE TRAVELING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE OUTBREAKS ARE OCCURRING. PEOPLE, WHO EAT RAW OR UNDERCOOKED SEAFOOD FROM WARM COASTAL WATERS THAT MAY BE INFECTED WITH THE GERM, OFTEN GET SICK AS WELL.

### HOW IS THE GERM SPREAD?

THE CHOLERA GERM IS PASSED IN THE STOOL. IT IS SPREAD BY EATING OR DRINKING FOOD OR WATER INFECTED BY THE FECAL WASTE OF AN INFECTED PERSON.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CHOLERA?

PEOPLE INFECTED WITH CHOLERA MAY HAVE DIARRHEA, VOMITING AND DEHYDRATION.

### HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

THE SYMPTOMS MAY APPEAR AFTER A FEW HOURS, AND UP TO FIVE DAYS, BUT USUALLY BETWEEN TWO TO THREE DAYS AFTER INFECTION.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR CHOLERA?

BECAUSE CHOLERA CAN CAUSE SEVERE DIARRHEA, THE PATIENT MUST RECEIVE FLUIDS BY MOUTH OR BY AN IV TO STOP FROM BECOMING DEHYDRATED. MEDICATIONS ARE ALSO USED TO SHORTEN THE TIME THE PATIENT HAS SYMPTOMS AND IS ABLE TO SPREAD THE DISEASE TO OTHERS.

### IS THERE A VACCINE FOR CHOLERA?

A VACCINE IS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVELERS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE CHOLERA IS OCCURRING. HOWEVER, THE VACCINE OFFERS ONLY A LITTLE PROTECTION FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

### HOW CAN CHOLERA BE PREVENTED?

TO PREVENT CHOLERA, AVOID EATING FOOD OR DRINKING WATER IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE CHOLERA OCCURS, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY TREATED AND ARE SAFE.