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## Update On Cholera, October 17 - 22

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## **Update On Cholera, October 17 - 22**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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Oct. 17: Panamanian Health Minister Guillermo Rolla reported 13 deaths and 538 confirmed cases of cholera. The minister asserted that government activities had already halted the spread of cholera. Oct. 18: Salvadoran health ministry spokespersons reported seven deaths and 304 confirmed cases of cholera. Panamanian health officials said the cholera epidemic in Darien department was under control and "in remission." Oct. 20: Panamanian health ministry spokespersons reported the first confirmed case of cholera near Panama City in Chilibre, 17 km. northeast of the capital. Oct. 22: Guatemalan health officials reported 12 deaths and over 380 confirmed cases of the disease. Cholera victims have been diagnosed in nine of the nation's 22 departments. Salvadoran health authorities reported 13 deaths and 338 confirmed cases of cholera. The cholera bacteria has been found in six rivers and two lakes. Hundreds of fisherfolk protested the ban imposed by Panama City authorities on seafood caught in Panama Bay. According to a study by the National Environmental Commission, at least seven rivers flowing into the Bay have likely been contaminated by the cholera bacteria. (Basic data from ACAN- EFE, 10/18/91, 10/22/91; AFP, 10/17/91, 10/20-22/91)

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