11-8-1991

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Cholera Update: October 23 - November 6

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Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, November 8, 1991

Oct. 23: Panamanian health ministry officials reported 15 deaths and 572 confirmed cases of cholera. Guatemalan health services official Octavio Moran reported 28 deaths, 576 confirmed cases, and 859 possible cases of cholera. Vinicio Mendez, head of the cholera treatment unit at San Juan General Hospital in Guatemala City, reported nine cholera cases registered at the hospital in August, 40 in September, and 49 during the first two weeks of October. Oct. 24: Salvadoran Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez reported 13 deaths and 350 confirmed cases of cholera. He said the epidemic is now "beyond the health ministry's control." Honduran Health Minister Cesar Castellanos reported the nation's first confirmed case of cholera in Alianza, Valle department, near the Salvadoran border. Honduran deputy health minister Jose Ramon Pereira indicated that the equivalent of US $780,000 have been earmarked for cholera prevention and treatment. Oct. 25: Honduran health ministry spokespersons confirmed two more cholera cases in Valle department. Oct. 27: Panamanian health officials reported a new outbreak of cholera at Isla Saboga, located in the Pacific, 70 km. south of Panama City. Three suspected cases of the disease were reported in Colon, 70 km. northeast of Panama City. Oct. 28: Salvadoran health ministry officials reported 20 deaths and 412 confirmed cases of cholera. The disease has been reported in 13 of the nation's 14 departments. A Honduran health ministry spokesperson reported seven suspected cases in Pespire, Choluteca department, 75 km. south of Tegucigalpa. Oct. 29: Honduran health ministry spokespersons reported four confirmed cases of cholera. Salvadoran Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez reported 17 deaths and 442 confirmed cases of the disease. Nov. 1: Panamanian health officials declared a health emergency in Colon department, where six confirmed cholera cases have been detected. Thus far, 17 deaths have been attributed to cholera. Total confirmed cases number 628. Honduran Health Minister Castellanos reported that the Goascoran river, located near the Salvadoran border, has been contaminated by the cholera bacteria. Nov. 4: Guatemalan Health Minister Miguel Angel Montepeque reported 32 deaths and 800 confirmed cases of cholera. Montepeque added that the largest number of cases have been reported in Escuintla and San Marcos departments. Nov. 5: Salvadoran deputy health minister Gustavo Argueta reported 23 deaths and 538 confirmed cases of cholera. Nov. 6: Panamanian health ministry spokespersons reported three new confirmed cases of cholera in Colon department and one in San Blas department. (Basic data from Salpress, 10/24/91; Notimex, 10/25/91; Agence France-Presse, 10/22-25/91, 10/27-29/91, 11/01/91, 11/02/91, 11/05/91; ACAN-EFE, 10/23/91, 10/24/91, 10/28/91, 11/01/91, 11/04-06/91)

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