



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE: CHOLERA ALERT

Cholera outbreaks have been reported in our neighboring country Zimbabwe. The Government of Zimbabwe declared a state of emergency on the 5th September 2018. According to World Health Organization (WHO) the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe has to date reported nearly 2000 suspected Cholera cases including 58 confirmed cases and 24 deaths.

Cholera is an acute life-threatening illness caused by infection of the intestine with bacteria known as *Vibrio cholerae*. The disease is spread by consuming food and water contaminated with faeces containing the bacteria. Cholera present with gastro-intestinal symptoms such as nausea and vomiting with frequent profuse rice water stools, fever and rapid loss of body fluids leading to dehydration and shock that may cause Renal failure and loss of consciousness.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is on high alert and continues to monitor the situation and will keep the public updated. The public is advised to: -

- Strictly observe personal hygiene measures such as washing of hands with soap after visiting the toilet, before and after handling food and before feeding.
- Making sure that food is thoroughly cooked and wash fruits with clean water
- Dispose of human excreta properly including children faeces
- Drink boiled and safe water.
- Promptly report to the nearest health facility if they have symptoms of Cholera

For further information on Cholera please visit the nearest health facility or call the Ministry of Health and Wellness on 363 2574/2020.

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