

## Cholera Information Sheets.

### *What is cholera?*

Cholera is due to a form of bacteria called **Vibrio Cholerae**. Cholera causes profuse watery diarrhoea that can lead to rapid dehydration. Cholera can be fatal in the very young and the very old.

### *How do you get cholera?*

Cholera affects only humans. It is transmitted either directly or indirectly from human to human, therefore eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water are modes of infection.

### *What are the symptoms?*

The symptoms of cholera range from only diarrhoea, to profuse watery diarrhoea with nausea and vomiting. In severe cases rapid dehydration can occur within a few hours.

### *How do you treat cholera?*

Fluid replenishment must occur immediately. If left untreated death may occur due to circulatory collapse.

### *Can I be vaccinated against cholera?*

An oral vaccine is available.

### *How else do I avoid getting cholera?*

All travelers are advised to avoid the consumption of contaminated food and water. See the information under the heading **Eating and Drinking Safely**.