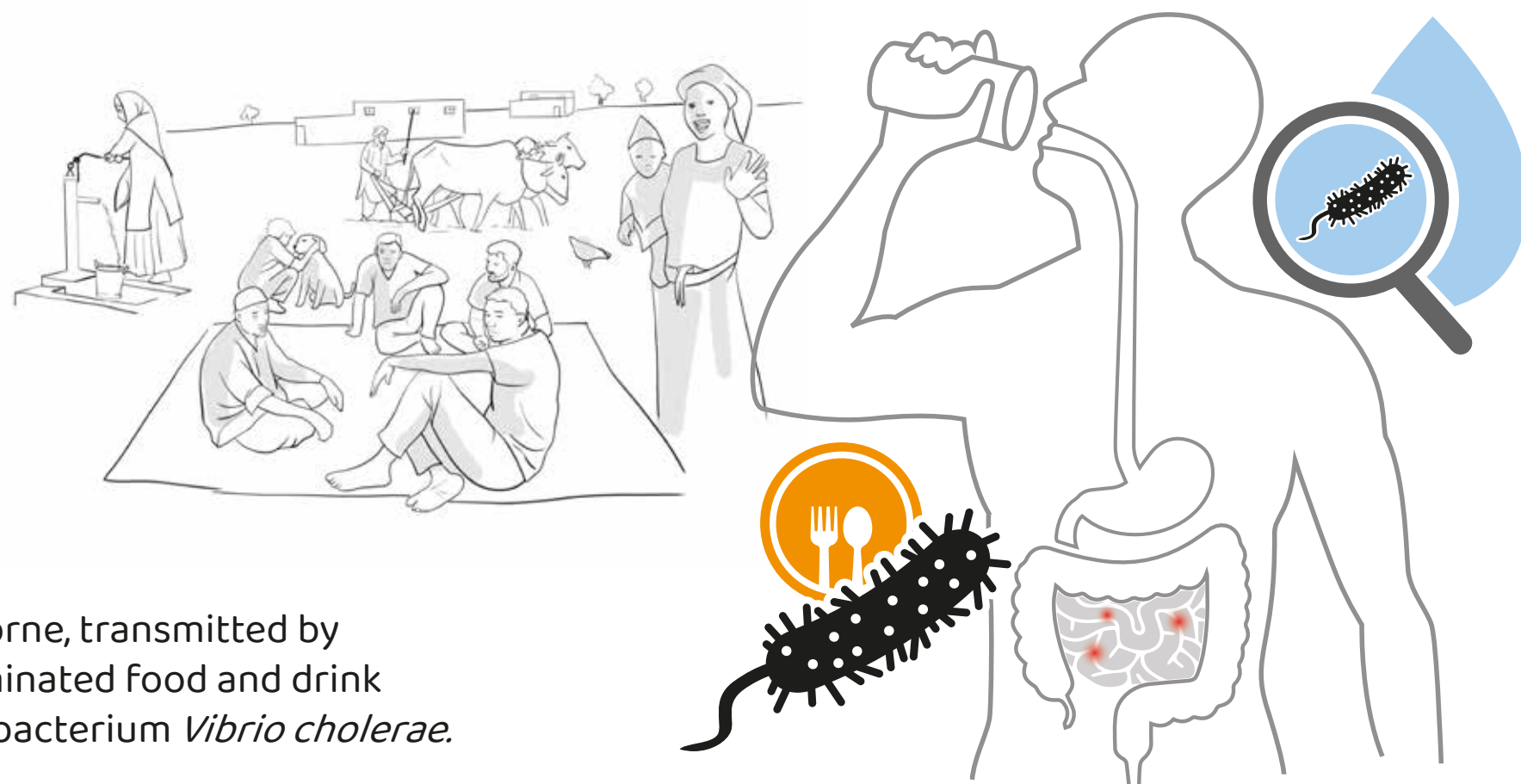


Cholera

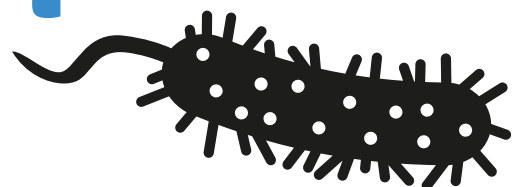
Information for the general public on oral cholera vaccine



Sources of infection

Foodborne and waterborne, transmitted by consumption of contaminated food and drink contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

Types of exposure & prevention



Direct contact with bacterium in water or food. It can spread very quickly, especially in conditions created by emergencies. Cholera can be fatal. Prevent it by:

- ▶ Only drinking boiled and clean water
- ▶ Using clean water for washing and preparing food, and making ice
- ▶ Washing your hands often with soap and safe water
- ▶ Cooking food completely, keeping it covered, and eating it hot
- ▶ Washing yourself and your children, and diapers and clothes away from drinking-water sources.



Symptoms



Diarrhoea that looks like "rice water" in large amounts



Vomiting



Leg cramps



Weakness



Dehydration

Oral cholera vaccine

Oral cholera vaccine (OCV) provides 66–67% protection for at least 2 years against clinically significant cholera in countries or areas reporting outbreaks.



Important instructions for vaccine administration

| For infants | For children (2-5 years) | For children aged 6+ and adults |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Do not use on infants as OCV is not licensed for infants. | 3 oral doses. Each given 1-6 weeks apart. | 2 oral doses to be given 1-6 weeks apart. |

- Intake of food and drinks should be avoided for one hour before and after vaccination.
- If you do not receive your second dose within 6 weeks you will have to restart vaccination.