

# GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

IN CASE OF REPLY, THE NUMBER AND DATE OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE QUOTED

Our Ref...GAMLS/NS/PR.03/02/25

Your Ref.....

Cell:



## PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

P.O BOX KB 144  
KORLE-BU, ACCRA  
02446223560242364175  
Tel/Fax (+233)030 2680011  
Email:info@gamls.org  
Website: [www.gamls.org](http://www.gamls.org)

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT: CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL REGION

The Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) issues this urgent statement following confirmation of a cholera outbreak in the Central Region, with **69 confirmed cases and 2 fatalities** between February 6-8, 2025. The Effutu District is the epicenter, recording 38 cases and both deaths, while Agona West, Gomoa Central, Cape Coast and Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem have also been affected. GAMLS calls for immediate collective action to curb further transmission and save lives.

---

#### KEY PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Cholera is preventable and treatable. The public is urged to:

1. Drink boiled or chlorinated water; avoid untreated sources.
2. Wash hands with soap before eating, after using the toilet and when handling food.
3. Use latrines; dispose of feces safely.
4. Eat thoroughly cooked meals and peeled fruits.
5. Report symptoms like **severe diarrhea, vomiting, or dehydration** to the nearest health facility.

***Oral rehydration solutions (ORS) can save lives if administered early.***

---

#### CRITICAL ROLE OF LABORATORY TESTING

Accurate and timely diagnosis is the backbone of outbreak control. Medical Laboratory Scientists:

- Conduct stool cultures and rapid tests to identify *Vibrio cholerae*.
- Determine antibiotic sensitivity for effective case management.
- Monitor outbreak trends to inform public health interventions.

MEMBER | INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (IFBLS)  
FEDERATION OF AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (FAAMLS)  
CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE (CLSI)  
GHANA FEDERATION OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (GFAHP)

GAMLS laboratories are working tirelessly to support testing, but increased resources and collaboration are urgently needed to meet demand.

---

## **CALL FOR COLLABORATION**

To combat this outbreak, we urge:

### **A. Government & Health Authorities**

- Strengthen lab capacity with supplies (test kits, reagents, PPE).
- Expand vaccination campaigns to the Central Region, following plans in Greater Accra.
- Accelerate public education on cholera prevention.

### **B. Healthcare Workers**

- Report suspected cases promptly for swift testing and isolation.

### **C. Public**

- Adhere to hygiene practices and avoid misinformation.
  - Participate in community sensitization programs.
- 

## **EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES**

Cholera can kill within hours if untreated. **Do not delay care** if you experience:

- Watery diarrhea ("rice-water stools")
  - Rapid dehydration (dry mouth, sunken eyes, low urine output)
  - Muscle cramps or weakness
- 

## **CLOSING APPEAL**

GAMLS stands ready to support health authorities and communities. We urge all stakeholders to act decisively to protect lives and prevent further loss. Cholera is a reflection of systemic gaps in water and sanitation—let this outbreak galvanize long-term investments in public health infrastructure.



**DR. GLORIA AMEGATCHER, FWAPCMLS, PHD**  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, GAMLS**  
**+233 54 298 2440**