



EDITORIAL

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CHOLERA: A LARGELY PREVENTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Cholera is a bacterial disease spread by food and water contaminated by stool from an infected person. The cholera bacteria has several serovars and is endemic in Kenya, affecting many counties. Communities that lack access to clean, safe drinking water and proper sanitation are at increased risk of spreading disease among themselves and neighbouring areas.

Nairobi and its environs have experienced cholera outbreaks that virtually affect the majority of the people. A recent outbreak led to marked morbidity and some mortality.

Nairobi is a large city that should have a well-run clean water supply and

management of waste disposal. Cholera outbreaks in Nairobi and its environs should never occur if the Nairobi city water and sewerage company does its work properly.

This should apply to large cities across Africa because cholera is a largely preventable disease when the level of public awareness is high, water treatment is adequate, food vending facilities are regularly inspected, and waste disposal is managed properly.



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