

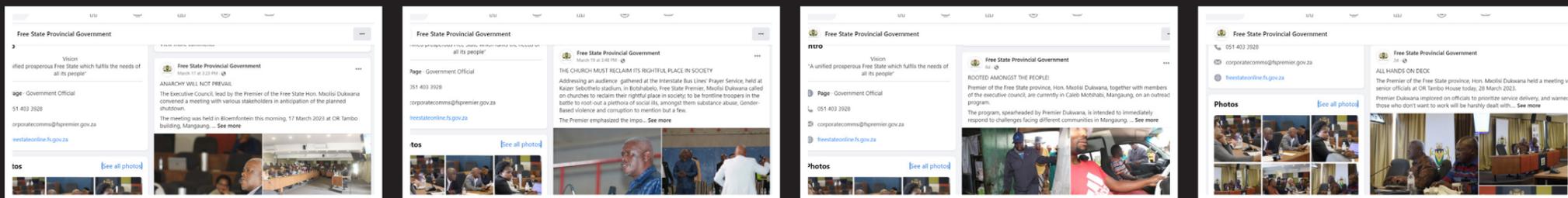
# THE UPDATE



FREE STATE PROVINCE

“THE PULSE OF COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE IN THE FREE STATE GOVERNMENT”

## SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS FEED



# WINNIE MADIKIZELA – MANDELA CLINIC FINALLY OPENED!

## ELATION AS PREMIER DUKWANA OPENS HEALTH FACILITY IN ROUXVILLE

When Premier Mxolisi Dukwana cut the ribbon to signal the official opening of the Winnie Madikizela – Mandela clinic in Rouxville, hysteria followed. Residents of Rouxville broke out into song, loudly singing ‘Dukwana re a ho leboha’ as the Premier and his entourage were given a tour of the facility. The clinic, which was officially opened on Tuesday, 30 May 2023, was officially opened by Premier Dukwana, who was accompanied by MEC for Health, Mathabo Leeto and MEC for Finance, Gadija Brown.

Premier Dukwana described the occasion as a historic event, following years of delays in the construction of the clinic. The Premier said seeing the jubilation on the faces of residents of Rouxville made up for the hurt they have had to go through following years of struggling without a clinic. “The elation of the people, who broke out in song when the doors of the facility were opened, was indicative of the relief following years of disagreements with contractors. To have finally had the honour of opening the clinic and seeing first-hand

the jubilation of the long-suffering people of Rouxville was truly gratifying. Our late struggle icon, Mama Winnie Madikizela – Mandela, after whom the facility was named, must be beaming with pride in heaven for, nothing brought her more joy than seeing the people of this country being provided with services,” Premier Dukwana said.

The Premier further appealed to residents of Rouxville to ensure that the clinic is saved protected from criminal elements, as

that would undo years of hard work which went into the construction of the facility.

“This facility will serve the people of this town and surrounding areas and our appeal is that residents jealously guard it against criminal elements,” Premier Dukwana pleaded.

- The clinic will provide the following services:
- Mother and child health services
- Reproductive health services
- Dental services

- Non-Communicable diseases
- TB
- HIV
- Rehabilitation services
- Maternal health services
- Minor ailments
- Chronic illnesses
- CCMDD (Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution)
- Dietetic services \*Social services (Health)
- Emergency Medical Service station is on site at the new clinic

A publication by Government Communication Services for more information and queries please contact the Deputy Director: Inter and Intra- Department Communications , Ms. Simphiwe Mngomezulu

# BOSELE BO SENA MAHUBE



Ka Labothlano, 26 Motsheganong 2023, Moporesidente wa naga, Rre Cyril Ramaphosa o ne a dira phatlalatsa kitsiso ya gore Mme Mahube Betty Molemela o beilwe go nna Moporesidente wa Kgotla Kgolo ya Boikuelo (Supreme Court of Appeal).

Kitsiso eno e latela go tlophiwa ga mme Molemela go kokomala maemo a no ga ngwaga ono o simolola. Mo leetong la gagwe le lentle la tiro, Mme Molemela o dirile histori ka go nna motho wa ntlha wa mme wa go nna Moatlhodi Poresidente (Judge President) wa kgotla kgolo mo porofenseng ya Foreisetata.

Morago ga kitsiso ya MoPresidente, Tonakgolo ya porofense ya Foreisetata Rre Mxolisi Dukwana, o tsera monyetla ono go tlotlomatsa Mme Molemela mo katlegong ya gagwe. Tonakgolo Dukwana o boitse a tthalosa gore, go beilwa ga Mme Molemela mo maemong ano, go bontsha maikaelelo a mmuso go fetola selebego sa makgotla a molao mo nageng.

“Mo boemong ba baagi botlha ba porofense ya Foreisetata, ke tsaya monyetla ono go lebisa ditebogo tsa rona go Mme Mahube Molemela, morago ga go beilwa jaaka Poresidente ya Kgotla Kgolo ya Boikuelo.

Re le porofense ya Foreisetata, re motlotlo gore o mong wa rona o etelletse lekgotla la molao, le le mo maemong a Kgotla Kgolo ya Boikuelo. Go beilwa ga Mme Molemela mo maemong ano go bontsha maikaelelo a tseletseng a naga ya rona go fetola seemo sa makgotla a molao.

Seno se bontsha gore basadi ba na le bokgoni jwa go etella sechaba pele, mme ba tshwanetse go tshepiwa ka maikarabelo ano. Mme Molemela o bontshitse gore o na le bokgoni jwa maikarabelo ao a a filweng, mme ke ikgolaganya le batho botlha ba porofense ya rona go mo lebogisa le go mo elletsa masego mo tirong e a e filweng.” Tonakgolo Dukwana o ne a tthalosa.

# EVERY CENT COUNTS!

## PREMIER DUKWANA TABLES DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

On 5 May, Premier Mxolisi Dukwana tabled the budget for the Office of the Premier at Teto Secondary school in Thabong township, near Welkom, Matjhabeng local municipality.

The Premier said, with the limited resources at their disposal, government would ensure that public funds were used for the betterment of the society.

“With this budget vote we took the people of our province into confidence about how we plan to utilize public resources pursuant to our mandate of building a better life for all. It gives us an opportunity to outline our planned priorities for the year ahead and solicit the blessings of the Free State community in whose interests our government is enjoined to act,” Premier Dukwana said.

The Premier assured residents of the province that government will ensure that deliveries are delivered and that the quality of life is improved. “With the limited resources we have, we bear the

responsibility of improving the overall quality of life of all our people. We need to do more with less! We need to reimagine the Free State as the artery and spine of the South African economy. For far too long we have been preoccupied with competing with the other provinces. This ignores our role to harness the specific locational benefits as well as the economic opportunities in various spheres of the economy.

Premier Dukwana dedicated the budget vote to the memory of the late Siphso Mutsi from Kutlwano township, near Odendaalsrus who was brutally assaulted by the apartheid police at the age of seventeen years. He also paid tribute to the former Premier Beatrice Marshoff and former MEC for Education Tate Makgoe, who passed on in March and April 2023 respectively.

Programme one (Administration) in the Office of the Premier has been allocated a total budget of R108 472 million for the 2023/24 financial year.



- A total budget of R293 413 million has been allocated to Programme Two (Institutional Development) in the Office of the Premier to meet its institutional development obligations.
- Programme three (Policy and Planning) in the Office of the Premier has been allocated R76 653 million for the 2023/24 financial year to perform its functions.
- A total budget allocation of R157 269 million has been made available for Programme four (Monitoring and Evaluation) to fulfil its responsibilities, in the 2023/24 financial year.

# DESTEA ON INVESTMENT DRIVE



As part of his efforts to attract investment into the Free State province, MEC responsible for Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Thabo Meeko together with delegation from Free State Development Corporation, Free State Gambling and Liquor Authority, as well as senior departmental management held an engagement with Matjhabeng

Local Municipality Mayoral Committee to discuss how intergovernmental relations can be used to unlock catalytic projects and investments in the municipality.

Amongst the key issues discussed was how best to revitalize the Phakisa raceway. Matjhabeng Local Municipality council has resolved to allow the

Free State Development Corporation to source investors for the facility. MEC Meeko highlighted that the revitalization of Phakisa will create both direct and indirect jobs in the area and will also serve as a nucleus around which the broader Phakisa Development Node will be built

DESTEA and Matjhabeng Local Municipality committed to working together to finalise the feasibility study on the potential to establish a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) around the gas fields in Matjhabeng.

With regard to Welkom Airport, it was resolved that the municipality, FDC, and the department will source investors who will be given a long-time lease agreement to develop this facility into a cargo airport.

Furthermore, DESTEA will support the municipality towards the envisaged Matjhabeng Local Municipality Investment Summit. MEC Meeko urged captains of the industry to open opportunities for SMMEs through access value chains as this will create employment and reduce poverty. He concluded that he would continue with the roadshows to other local municipalities to identify economic opportunities.

# CIAO!

## JOY AS YOUNG SOCCER STARS JET OFF TO ITALY

On Saturday 27 May 2023, Member of the Executive Council responsible for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Limakatso Mahasa bade farewell to Bloemfontein City football club as they set off for a football tournament in Italy.

MEC Mahasa joined the young soccer starlets at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International airport as they set off to Europe for the tournament.

The boys, will take part in the Granda Cup where

teams such as Everton from England and Olympic Marseille from France. The MEC wished the team the best of luck in the competition.

“I wish you victory in all your games in Italy. It is also my wish to see some of you playing for our national team in the future,” MEC Mahasa said. The department has provided support to the team in the form of soccer attire and transportation.





# CERT FOR LIFE

## PREMIER DELIVERS ON PROMISE MADE AFTER ONLY A MONTH!

Following the announcement made by Premier Mxolisi Dukwana on 17 April 2023 that the students' historic debt with Higher Education Institutions will be settled, that commitment was brought to reality on 17 May.

A total of 1 850 students, from institutions such as the Motheo TVET College, the Central University of Technology and the University of the Free State, finally received their certificates at the Boet Troskie hall, Central University of Technology's Bloemfontein campus. The ceremony, which was also attended by Members of the Executive Council, took place exactly a month after Premier Dukwana, on behalf of the Free State Provincial Government and the Manufacturing, Engi-

neering and Related Services Education and Training Authority (merSETA) announced that the students' debt, which ran into tens of millions of randS, would be settled.

Premier Dukwana said he was overcome with emotions at the sight of students from poor families finally receiving their certificates.

"I was overcome with mixed emotions as long-suffering students finally received their certificates. On the one hand, I was filled with joy and pride that the students defied the odds and managed to complete their studies. On the other, I was also saddened that we are faced with unacceptably high levels of unemployment

among graduates, even as we compare favourably well relative to other economies, on employment prospects of graduates. The latest statistics paint a rather unpleasant picture of unemployment at 32,9%," Premier Dukwana said.

The Premier said, in light of this rather depressing situation, everybody must play a part in changing it for the better. Of concern, added Premier Dukwana, was the fact that most people hardest hit by unemployment were young.

"This is quite worrying and all of us who wish to see our province progress ought to be concerned about this, and do what we can, to bring these numbers

down. Most of those unemployed people are relatively young people. And much as I was genuinely happy, as any parent would, to see our students receive their certificates, I was equally gravely concerned by this stark reality," said Premier Dukwana.

He said the province will soon embark on programmes to stimulate economic activity and job creation.

"Working with our Executive Council and government, we will start implementing economic growth interventions, to stave off this southward decline in job creation. I am therefore making a call to all of us to redouble our efforts, to turn this situation around," he said.

## DESTEA DRIVES THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

### FIVE HUNDRED JOBS TO BE CREATED IN THABA - NCHU



DESTEA MEC Thabo Meeko, together with the Executive Management of the Department, spearheaded the monitoring process of Rui Star Iron-Steel Plant situated in Thaba Nchu industrial area.

The visit by MEC Meeko and the management took place on 23 May 2023.

The said company sources scrap metal across South Africa and processes it into steel and iron. It is currently operating with 120 people from the local area; about an additional 500 people still to be permanently employed when phase one of the programme is fully commissioned. MEC Meeko explained that the investment is worth R300 million.

"This is one of the key results emanating from continuous engagements with different stakeholders, investors, and potential funders. We are on a mission to attract investors so that we bring new money into our economy and create jobs to reduce the high rate of unemployment," said MEC Meeko.

The company was initially set up in a factory situated in Botshabelo but later realised that the electricity capacity in the area was far less than what was required on the project, and later relocated to Thaba Nchu. The project is at the final stage and envisaged to kick off on the first week of June 2023. Once power capacity has increased, an estimated 500 jobs will be created.

MEC Meeko concluded that he will continue with the roadshows to other local municipalities to identify economic opportunities.



The Free State Department of Social Development has strongly condemned the actions of a man who allegedly set his partner alight in Botshabelo, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, earlier this month.

The man, identified only as Lebetsa, is alleged to have assaulted his wife, Dolly Lebetsa on the 12th of May 2023. The alert community of Section A, having realised what was happening to the woman, quickly rushed to her aid and warned her husband not to assault her.

It is alleged that the following day, Mr. Lebetsa, despite his promises to members of the community not to assault his wife, continued to viciously assault his 37 year – old wife.

He then allegedly doused her with petrol and set her alight. All this unfolded in the presence of the couple's traumatised six year – old son who alerted the community what had happened to his mother the following day.

MEC for Social Development Tshidi Kolo, dispatched departmental officials and social workers to provide psycho-social support to the child and also affected family members. The child has since been taken in by his paternal family, whilst his badly injured mother is hospitalized at Bloemfontein. MEC Kolo strongly condemned the incident, and called for the harshest punishment for the perpetrator.



FREE STATE PROVINCE

# CERT FOR LIFE



**merSETA**  
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA





# MEC MANCE MEETS ARTISANS

## DEPARTMENT TO MAKE USE OF ITS INTERNAL CAPACITY IN THE FUTURE

On 26 May 2023, MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure Dibolelo Mance met with 32 artisan graduates at the OR Tambo House, Bloemfontein.

During the meeting, the MEC outlined her vision, which amongst others, will entail the development and empowerment of the department's artisan division, and added that it will, in the long run, yield positive results as the department will no longer outsource the maintenance

of government buildings for refurbishment and rebuilding, but make use of the internal artisan capacity.

The trades that the department has at its disposal and are further developing include painting, painting and deco, bricklaying, welding, plumbing, electrical engineering and plastering.

"Part of the broader plan is to reclaim the public works mandate in totality, so that, functions

like the artisanship programme are realised, harnessed and taken to greater heights. "You are a very important business unit of the department and it is my wish that we can all work together to realise the department's vision," she said.

The department started empowering its personnel, located within the Works & Maintenance section in 2013/14 and has over the years expanded in its trade recruitment and empowerment base.

"Of significance, which I am proud of is that, there are women and young women who are part of our Artisan Development Programme and I am proud of you bo Mme," MEC Mance added.

The session was open and interactive, with MEC Mance encouraging those present to fully participate as the department charts on a developmental way-forward.

# OUR NURSES, OUR FUTURE

International Nurses Day is celebrated worldwide annually on the 12th of May. This global campaign seeks to celebrate and recognize the hard work and dedication executed by nurses' in the health sector country wide, as well as to address some of their challenges in their line of duty every day.

In addition, International Nurses Day is observed to honour the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. It serves as a reminder of the crucial role nurses play in the healthcare industry, highlighting their significance alongside doctors.

Free State Department of Health celebrated this day in Bohlakong, in Bethlehem today, under the theme "Our Nurses, Our Future".

The two day event started yesterday, where the Department of Health undertook the "Taking Health Services to the People" campaign to the community of Bohlakong. This programme is at the heart of the Premier's clarion call, to enable ordinary people in communities, to access healthcare as a fundamental right in line with the promise of our Constitution. The services encompassed the following:

- Eye care,
- Dental care,
- Male Medical Circumcision,
- Immunization,
- Cervical Cancer Screening,
- BP and Glucose,
- Mental Health screening, and
- TB/HIV and AIDS.

One of the Guest Speaker, the famous Professor Solomon Makola, referred to the nurse as the unsung heroes who dedicated their lives to the Health sector. The people who makes an enormous difference in the lives of their respective communities and in the country as a whole.

"Your exceptional contribution was realized during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your selflessness and sacrifices did not go unnoticed. You are the beacon of hope in the health sector", concludes Makola.

The day ended on a higher note with cheers and the gifting of outstanding performances in all nursing categories shown by our exceptional nurses.



# CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN FREE STATE

On the 17 May 2023, the first Cholera related cases were reported in some parts of the Ngwathe Municipality, specifically in the towns of Parys and Vredefort. The Free State Department Outbreak response team has since been activated to deal with this outbreak which was first reported in Hamanskraal, north of Pretoria in Gauteng province.

The Free State MEC for Health, Ms. Mathabo Leeto facilitated a multi-sectoral meeting inclusive of Executive Mayors of Fezile Dabi, Ngwathe and Councillors with the District Outbreak Response Teams and Development Partners supported by World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Institute of Communicable Diseases. The meeting received an update of the interventions that have been put in place to curb the spread of diarrhoea and cholera in the Vredefort and Parys areas respectively as well as surrounding areas of Fezile Dabi District Municipality and the Free State province in its entirety.

MEC Leeto emphasised the need to be proactive going forward in preventing further cases in the province, regrettably, on the 23rd May 2023, 33-year-old Madikeledi Sebeho was recorded as the first person to have died of the diarrhoeal disease in the province at the Parys Hospital.

A person can get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with cholera bacteria. In an epidemic, the source of the contamination is usually the faeces of an infected person that contaminates water or food. The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water.

People are advised to wash their hands regularly after using the toilet. They must treat their water before drinking it.

The Free State is in the most vulnerable position as it is in the centre of the country surrounded by six provinces (Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, KZN, Northern Cape, North West) and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

# Stop diarrhoea

With clean water and good hygiene practices

## Make water safe



**1** Pour (filter) water through a clean cloth.

**2** Pour 1 teaspoon (5ml) of bleach into 20-25 litres of water, mix well and wait for at least 30 minutes (half hour). **or** Boil the water. Let the water bubble for one minute, to make it clean and safe. Store safe water in a closed container.

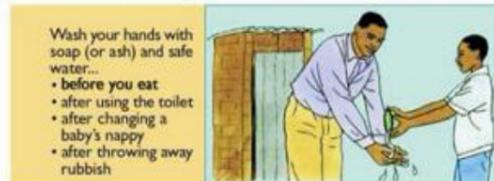
## Prepare safe food



Wash it, peel it or cook it

- Wash or peel fruit and vegetables
- Cook food well
- Store food in a clean and cool place

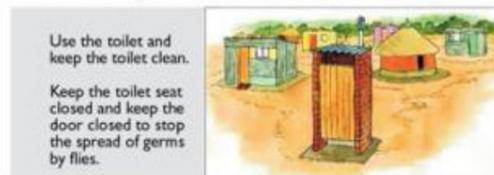
## Wash your hands



Wash your hands with soap (or ash) and safe water...

- before you eat
- after using the toilet
- after changing a baby's nappy
- after throwing away rubbish

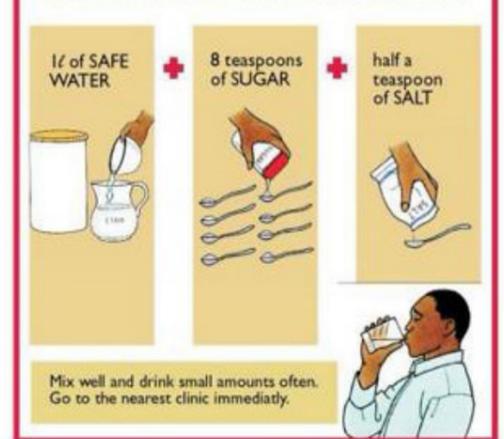
## Keep toilets clean



Use the toilet and keep the toilet clean.

Keep the toilet seat closed and keep the door closed to stop the spread of germs by flies.

## TREATMENT OF DIARRHOEA

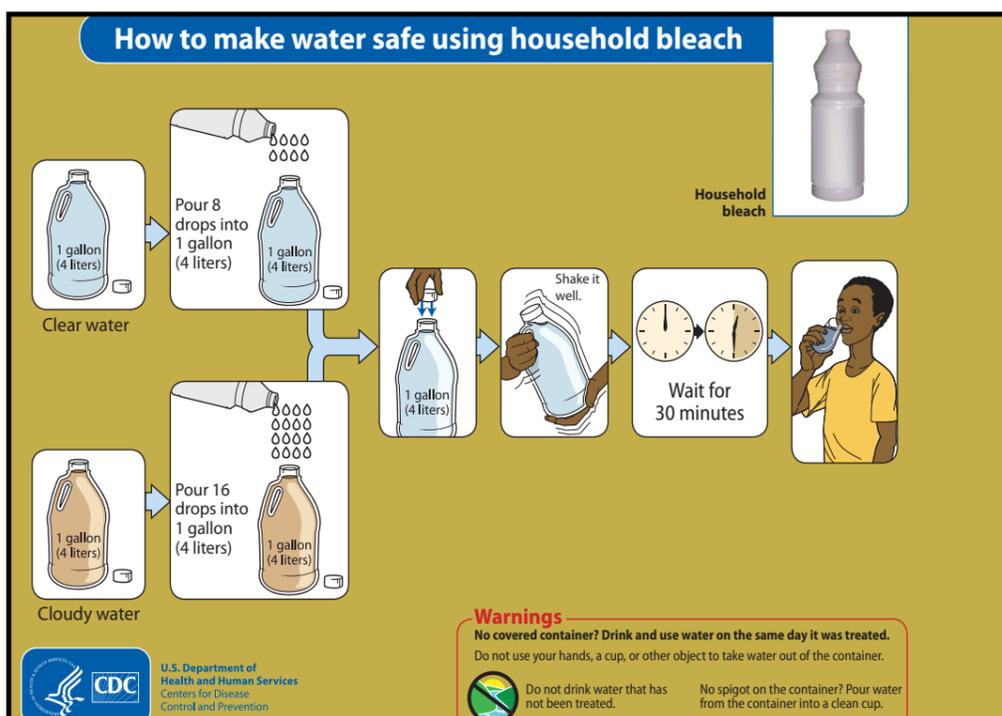


1/2 of SAFE WATER + 8 teaspoons of SUGAR + half a teaspoon of SALT

Mix well and drink small amounts often. Go to the nearest clinic immediately.



### How to make water safe using household bleach



**Clear water:** Pour 8 drops into 1 gallon (4 liters). Shake it well. Wait for 30 minutes.

**Cloudy water:** Pour 16 drops into 1 gallon (4 liters). Shake it well. Wait for 30 minutes.

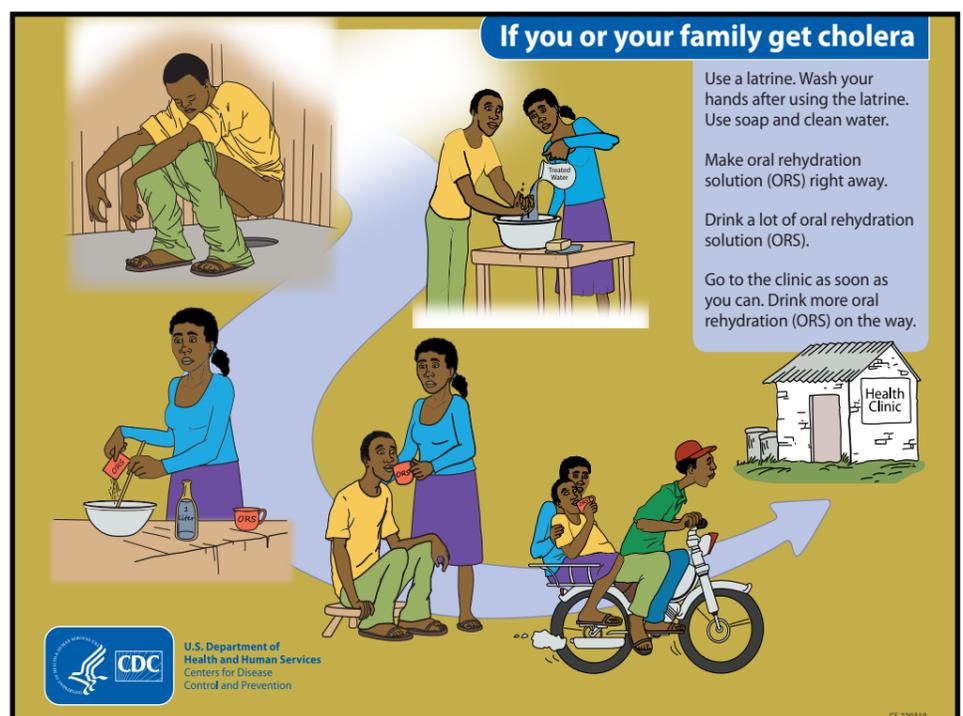
Household bleach

**Warnings**

- No covered container? Drink and use water on the same day it was treated.
- Do not use your hands, a cup, or other object to take water out of the container.
- Do not drink water that has not been treated.
- No spigot on the container? Pour water from the container into a clean cup.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### If you or your family get cholera



Use a latrine. Wash your hands after using the latrine. Use soap and clean water.

Make oral rehydration solution (ORS) right away.

Drink a lot of oral rehydration solution (ORS).

Go to the clinic as soon as you can. Drink more oral rehydration (ORS) on the way.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention