

## March 2020 Polio Newsletter

to all Rotarians in Rotary District 5040

### Rotarians - Call to Action



During this challenging final phase of polio eradication, we are calling on all of our 1.2 million members to redouble your commitment and continue to persevere until the day that we fulfill our promise of a polio-free world.

- ▶ Be a part of the fight to end polio, and take that fight to your clubs and your communities.
- ▶ Continue to raise awareness of the importance of polio eradication, and Rotary's critical role in that effort by holding events and fundraisers year-round.
- ▶ Continue helping to raise \$50 million per year for polio eradication, to be matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ▶ Donate now at [www.endpolio.org/donate](http://www.endpolio.org/donate).

### Rotary and Polio (in 300 words)

For those who would like a short summary of Rotary's campaign to End Polio and our role in eradicating the disease, please read the attached document.

### District Polio Walk 2020 Cancelled



With regret, it has been decided to cancel the annual Polio Walk for this year.

The Polio Walk 2020 was scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 24th at the River Market in New Westminster.

This decision follows guidance from BC Health and District 5040 regarding public gatherings and events during the current coronavirus pandemic.

We encourage you to continue to support our End Polio campaign by making a donation at [www.endpolio.org/donate](http://www.endpolio.org/donate).

## Rotary Delegation meets with PM Imran Kahn in Pakistan



On February 5th a Rotary delegation visited Pakistan and met with Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the current polio situation in the country.

The delegation included President elect Holger Knaack, Past President Ravi Ravindran, PolioPlus Chair Michael McGovern, and Pakistan PolioPlus Chair Aziz Memon.

PM Khan said that Pakistan's biggest priority is to eradicate polio from the country, adding that the government will utilise every measure in its fight against the disease.

Read [MORE](#).

## UN Secretary-General backs Polio Eradication



On a trip to Pakistan, UN Secretary-General António Guterres vaccinated children in Lahore during a nationwide campaign aiming to protect some 39 million children from polio. Guterres reiterated that polio eradication is a priority of the United Nations and called on all leaders to help end polio for good.

Read [MORE](#).

## Why is Polio still Here? A perspective from Pakistan

Rana Jawad Asghar writes in the Lancet:

"Poliomyelitis has been eradicated in all countries except Afghanistan and Pakistan. Why have we, as Pakistani government workers, public health officials, and community members been unable to eradicate polio in Pakistan?"

Read [MORE](#).

## Peace deal in Afghanistan offers hope in the fight against polio



The Taliban are in negotiations with the World Health Organization in a bid to set Afghanistan's children free from the chains of polio.

Discussions are taking place in Doha, Qatar, according to Michel Zaffran, WHO's Director of Polio Eradication.

Read ***MORE***.

## Rotary and the Gates Foundation extend Fundraising Partnership



Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are renewing the longstanding partnership to end polio. Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million per year over the next three years, and every dollar will be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation. This expanded agreement will translate into up to \$450 million for polio eradication activities. [WATCH](#). In an interview Bill gates remarked "The final steps to a polio-free world are the hardest — and we'll need the help of every Rotarian to get there. But I'm confident that we will end polio together". [READ](#).

## District 5040 Donations to PolioPlus *(as of March 12, 2020)*.

I urge all D5040 Rotarians and clubs to continue to fundraise and donate to PolioPlus and benefit from the Gates Foundation 2 to 1 match.

District 5040 PolioPlus goal 2019-20 (my goal)	US\$100,000
Total of Clubs goals in Rotary Club Central (RCC)	US\$66,934
Number of Clubs with goals in RCC	44 of 50
Total giving YTD as of 12 March 2020	US\$47,062
Number of clubs with donations YTD	37 of 50

Please see the attached PolioPlus report for further detail.

► Donate now at [www.endpolio.org/donate](http://www.endpolio.org/donate).

## Case breakdown by Country (as of March 11, 2020).

Countries	YTD 2020		YTD 2019		Total 2019	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	29	0	21	0	29	0
Nigeria	0	18	0	34	0	18
Pakistan	136	18	12	0	146	22
Angola	0	88	0	0	0	127
DR of the Congo	0	73	0	20	0	85
Other non-endemic countries	0	69	<u>0</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>105</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>357</b>

For the latest details regarding case counts and progress visit [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org).

### The GPEI Partners:

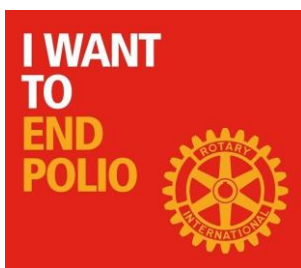


BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



### Reference Links

- [End Polio Now](#)
- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#)
- [The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)



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**Rotary**

District 5040

