

May 2020 Polio Newsletter

to all Rotarians in Rotary District 5040

Polio Eradication and COVID-19

Eradicating a disease is not easy. That is why only one human disease - smallpox, has ever been eradicated. In our 40-year campaign to rid the world of the polio virus we knew that there would be periods of great progress but also some setbacks.

But we never imagined that in trying to defeat one virus, another would rise up to disrupt our endeavours.

Here is a summary of how the Polio Eradication Initiative is responding to the current coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

- All countries planning to conduct door-to-door poliovirus preventative campaigns have temporarily postponed these campaigns until further notice.
- Countries which were planning to conduct poliovirus outbreak response campaigns have been advised to postpone these campaigns until at least 1 June 2020 and then re-evaluate based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in their locale.
- Many in-clinic routine immunization programs have stopped due to communities being advised to stay home and observe social distancing.

Read "[Call to Action](#)" by the GPEI Polio Oversight Board.

Consequences:

- The postponement of vaccination campaigns will inevitably lead to lengthened eradication timelines and increased resource needs. Polio cases caused by the wild polio virus (WPV) are expected to increase, as are outbreaks caused by the vaccine derived polio virus (VDPV).
- There will also be increases in cases of measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, whooping cough and other vaccine preventable diseases due to missed vaccination schedules during the pandemic.

Read "Prepare for Collateral Damage" in the [Washington Post](#).

Meanwhile:

- The Polio Eradication programs, operational assets, infrastructure, and human resources, from global to country level, are being made available to enable a strong response to COVID-19, while maintaining critical polio functions, such as surveillance and global vaccine supply management.
- At country level, the polio surveillance network is being trained on COVID-19 case detection, case and contact tracing, laboratory testing and data management.

- The GPEI will maintain surveillance activity and will place the highest priority on the continuation of poliovirus surveillance (acute flaccid paralysis and environmental) to closely monitor the circulation of wild and vaccine-derived polioviruses.

Read "[THE FIRST CALL](#)"..

Looking Ahead:

- The Polio Eradication effort will keep momentum on strategic areas to minimize loss of ground. We will ensure that we will come back stronger and faster when the COVID-19 emergency subsides, driven by our determination to achieve a polio-free world.
- To prepare for this scale-up, GPEI will work over the coming months to ensure the availability and readiness of polio vaccines with the goal of rapidly vaccinating at-risk communities as soon as the situation allows. Work will continue at full speed on the development and use of novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), to combat VDPV outbreaks with the aim of rolling out the new vaccine by the third quarter of 2020. *Read about nOPV2*

Over the coming months, continued partnership and support from donors and stakeholders will be critical to ensure the GPEI continues driving progress toward polio eradication.

► **DONATE NOW** at www.endpolio.org/donate.



Polio staff conduct COVID-19 awareness training in Pakistan



Local Health workers demonstrate the best way to wash hands.



Ongoing surveillance and monitoring of sewage and water systems in all at-risk counties is vitally important during the pandemic.

Read [**MORE**](#).

What the History of Polio Can Teach US About COVID-19



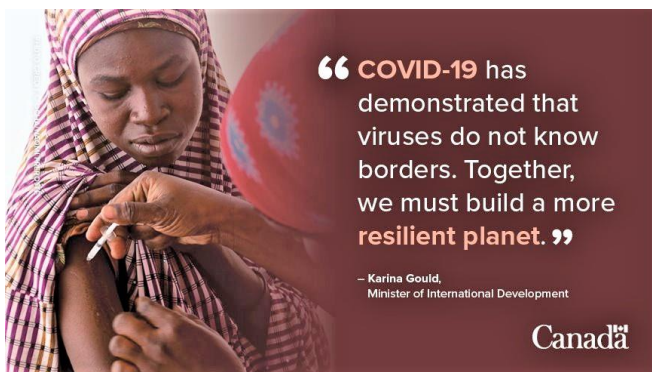
Dr Jonas Salk administers the polio vaccine to a child in 1955.

These are frightening times as the coronavirus spreads in ways reminiscent of the polio virus. It's instructive to remember what it took to nearly eradicate polio and a reminder of what we can do when faced with a common enemy.

There are many recent articles comparing the current COVID-19 pandemic to the polio epidemics of the last century. Now, as then, there is no proven cure. Now, as then, there is no vaccine. And now, as then, an epidemic that is ranging across nations requires us to stay apart, to stay home, to wash our hands, and to be safe. Shops, parks, swimming pools, theatres closed, and events cancelled.

Here is one such article in [TIME Magazine](#).
And another in [THE CONVERSATION](#).

Canada Announces New Funds for Polio Eradication and Global Vaccinations



Canada is pledging C\$600 million to the third replenishment of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and committing C\$47.5 million annually over four years (C\$190 million) to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's end-game strategy.

[READ](#).

District 5040 Donations to PolioPlus (as of May 14, 2020).

Last year at this time we had contributed **US\$91,778**.

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	US\$100,000
Total of Clubs goals in Rotary Club Central (RCC)	US\$66,339
Number of Clubs with goals in RCC	44 of 50
▶ Total giving YTD as of May 14 2020	US\$50,918
Number of clubs with donations YTD	38 of 50

Please see the attached PolioPlus report for further detail.

▶ **DONATE NOW** at www.endpolio.org/donate.

Case breakdown by Country (as of May 13, 2020).

Countries	YTD 2020		YTD 2019		Total 2019	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	12	2	11	0	29	0
Nigeria	0	1	0	9	0	18
Pakistan	47	44	23	0	147	22
Angola	0	2	0	3	0	131
Chad	0	13	0	0	0	10
DR Congo	0	4	0	6	0	85
Philippines	0	1	0	0	0	15
Other non-endemic countries	<u>0</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85</u>
TOTAL	59	104	34	25	176	366

For the latest details regarding case counts and progress visit www.polioeradication.org.

The GPEI Partners:

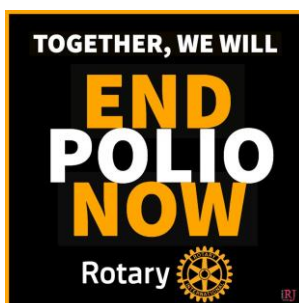


BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



Reference Links

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



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