

## October 2019 Polio Newsletter

to all Rotarians in Rotary District 5040

### District 5040 Recognized for Giving to PolioPlus

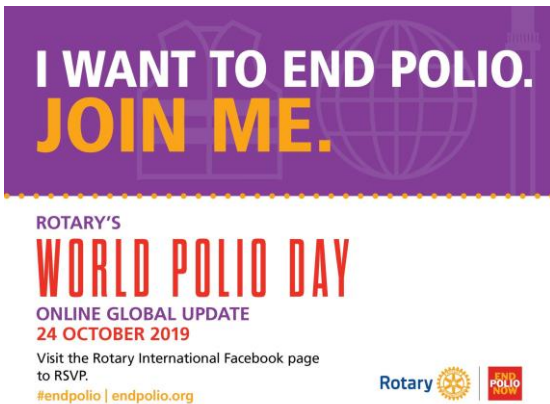


At the recent Zone 24/32 Conference in Niagara, District 5040 was recognized for our contribution to the PolioPlus program.

PDG **Darcy Long** posted on Facebook:

*“Rotarians of District 5040 you are amazing! **Congratulations** to all of you for your commitment to End Polio Now. Your continued support has been recognized and together we will keep our Promise to all the children and create a Polio Free World. Special Thanks and Appreciation to our District Polio Chair Brian Finley for your efforts in keeping Polio front and center for all of us and our clubs. World Polio Day is just around the corner.....how are you and your club planning to mark the occasion???”*

### World Polio Day is October 24<sup>th</sup>



To celebrate World Polio Day: -

- The four **Prince George** clubs are holding a combined meeting with the focus on End Polio.
- The two **Terrace** clubs are holding a trivia night with some 100 contestants in 25 teams competing for the top team and prizes.
- The City of **Vancouver** will proclaim October 24th as World Polio Day and light up City Hall in red.
- The Rotary Club of **Ladner** will have two “Pumpkins for Polio” sales events.
- **Squamish** will have information and donation booths at local shopping malls.

### What does your club have planned?

Ideas, resources, and event materials can be found at [www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day](http://www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day).

Brochures and posters can be ordered at no charge from [www.shop.rotary.org](http://www.shop.rotary.org).

More ideas attached.

Remember to register your event at [www.endpolio.org/register-your-event](http://www.endpolio.org/register-your-event).

## Forty Years ago, our Journey to a Polio-Free World Began.



"Great things have a small beginning". 40 years ago, on September 29, 1979, Rotary began our first polio immunization project in the Philippines to End Polio forever.

Watch a short video of the occasion [HERE](#).  
Read more [HERE](#).

*James L Bomar, then RI President, gave the first drops of polio vaccine.*

## Africa Region on the Path to being Certified Polio-Free.

On 21 August 2019, Nigeria marked three years without any new cases of the wild poliovirus. As the last polio-endemic country in Africa, Nigeria's success against wild polio will open the door for the entire African region to be certified free of the wild poliovirus. Following Nigeria's 3-year mark, the Africa Regional Certification Commission will finalize its evaluation process of the data to confirm this progress. **If the progress is confirmed, the entire African region could be certified WPV-free during 2020.**

## Rise in Polio Cases causes Concern.



In **Pakistan**, increased vaccine hesitancy and a social media scam has impacted the program. Several million Pakistani households have refused immunizations for children since April, when false reports circulated on television, Facebook and Twitter that children had fallen ill after a vaccination drive at a school in the northern city of Peshawar. Also, opponents of the Pakistani government are refusing vaccinations as a political tool to put pressure on the new prime minister, Imran Khan, and risking their children in the process.

In **Afghanistan** there has been a ban since April by the Taliban forces on polio campaigns in areas under their control. This was impacting 5 million missed children. On September 25, the Taliban militants lifted the ban on health-related activities, offered a guarantee of safety for WHO staff, and allowed polio vaccination

campaigns to resume in health centers.

Both governments and our polio eradication partners are working to critically analyze their programs, carrying out their national polio emergency plans, and executing area-specific solutions.

**Mike McGovern**, Rotary International PolioPlus Chair, writes: *"There have been many bumps in the road since Rotary began focusing on polio eradication in the Philippines 40 years ago. All have been overcome and we will do so this time. Thank you to all Rotarians for your continuing financial support and advocacy that will ensure the upcoming polio free world."*

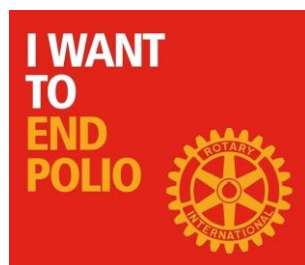
## Case breakdown by Country (as of October 2nd, 2019).

Countries	YTD 2019		YTD 2018		Total 2018	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	16	0	19	0	21	0
Nigeria	0	16	0	25	0	34
Pakistan	69	0	8	0	12	0
DR of the Congo	0	31	0	20	0	20
Other non-endemic countries	0	41	0	44	0	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>104</b>

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

## Reference Links

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



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**Rotary**  
District 5040

