



Rotary Zones 26 & 27

PolioPlus Weekly Update
11 August, 2021



Note: This update is going out to all Zone 26 & 27 DG's, DGE's, District Foundation Chairs, District PolioPlus Chairs, Senior Leaders and others who have requested to be on the mailing list 😊. However, if you wish to no longer receive these updates, please let me know and I'll remove you from the list 😞.

Greetings Polio Warriors:

- **Wild Poliovirus - ONCE AGAIN...EXHALE!!!...NO NEW CASES this last week 😊.**

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE - The number of days since the last case of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 occurred in Afghanistan.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX - The number of days since the last case of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 occurred in Pakistan.

TWO - The total number of cases of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 that occurred in the world since New Years Day.

NINETY-SEVEN - The number of cases of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 that occurred in 2020 on this date.

Last week marks the **TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK IN A ROW (OVER 6 MONTHS)** with no new reported cases. There were also no cases of positive environmental samples of WPV1 (Wild Polio Virus, Type 1) either in Pakistan or Afghanistan. Of particular note, especially in light of this week's happenings in Afghanistan with the Taliban apparently taking control, is that since January 1st, there has been only **ONE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE** in Afghanistan, which occurred on the 23rd of February. For comparative purposes, Pakistan has had 60 cases of positive environmental samples since the beginning of the year, the most recent being last week. So I speculate that despite past limited access to house-to-house vaccinations in areas that the Taliban controlled, that the lack of positive environmental samples may indicate one of the factors in Afghanistan's being able to keep their wild polio cases to that single event that occurred on January 1st. Again, just speculation on my part. Of

course, there is great concern about the recent events in Afghanistan and what its implications might be for the Polio Vaccination program.

An article dated August 4th appeared in Science Magazine last week that acknowledges that concern. However, Leslie Roberts, the author, says GPEI's Hamid Jafari, who directs eradication efforts in the region, states that the Taliban are not opposed to polio vaccination per se - in fact, it has collaborated with the program in the past. He goes on, "It was purely for security reasons in specific areas where it imposed the ban" (The insurgents accused polio vaccinators of passing along information to help the US target airstrikes that killed Taliban leadership). "Whether right or wrong, if that is the perception, that is reality" said Aidan O'Leary, head of GPEI at the World Health Organization. The hope is that as the Taliban consolidate power, they may ease their suspicions and allow GPEI to operate unimpeded. For example, following years of negotiations, they recently approved vaccinations to occur in mosques. To read the full article, [click here](#).

But meanwhile, we have once again earned the right to our weekly Victory "Happy Dance" around our office chairs...I hope that you really get tired of doing this...because that means that we have made another week of no wild polio cases...OK, READY, SET...GO 😊!!!

- **Vaccine-Derived Polio** - Although there were seven cVDPV2 (circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Cases Type 2) reported last week, it was quite a reduction from the 25 cases reported the week before. In addition, only five of them occurred in the 2021 calendar year, three in Nigeria and one each in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. The other two cases, although just reported, occurred in Mali in the 2020 calendar year.

Positive environmental samples also decreased from 13 the week before to eight this last week, with three occurring in Nigeria, two each in Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire and one in Niger.

- **Rotary meets the Gates 2 for 1 Challenge** - At a world-wide Zoom meeting of all EPNC's (End Polio Now Coordinators) last week, it was announced that thanks to you and all Rotarians world-wide, we met the Gates \$50 Million Challenge by the hair of our chinny chin chins, with total donations of **\$50,027,000** (I took an extra lap around my office chair for this one). This will result in **\$150,027,000** after the Gates Match. Please note

however, that these are the preliminary **unaudited** results, and could change after the audit. However, for now, I'm celebrating 😊.
Congratulations to each and every one of you for making this happen. We all did our part!!!

- **District PolioPlus Chairs “Peer-to-Peer” meeting on Zoom** was a great success this last Thursday IMHO. It was a chance for all of us to get to meet each other if we hadn't connected yet. We heard some heartfelt stories from the group, as well as some fundraising ideas. As a matter of fact, if you're a District PolioPlus Chair that missed the meeting, or if you're one of our Zone leaders who'd like to see what transpired, here's a link to a [video recording of the meeting](#). 😊.

That's it for this week folks. Stay safe and we'll see you next week.

Bob and Greg - Your Big West “End Polio Now” Coordinators

Bob Rogers
Rotary Club of Sebastopol
District 5130
PolioPlus Chair (2020/21)
Past District Governor (2017/18)
Zone 27
End Polio Now Coordinator (2020/23)
Cell: 707-766-463

Poliovirus Weekly Update August 11, 2021, World Health Organization

Wild Poliovirus Summary:

You will see below and on the attached powerpoint, that the numbers are, **once again unchanged**. The number of wild polio cases for 2021 as of August 11, 2021 **remains at 2** (1 in Pakistan and 1 in Afghanistan).

The total number of wild polio cases in **2020** were **140** (84 in Pakistan and 56 in Afghanistan).

The total number of wild polio cases in **2019** were **176** (147 in Pakistan and 29 in Afghanistan).

Note: Polio “Acronyms”. For a complete list go to <https://polioeradication.org/acronyms/>

AFP = Acute Flaccid Paralysis

cVDPV = Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus (a 1 or 2 behind it denotes the polio type...ie cVDPV2)

WPV1 = Wild Poliovirus, Type 1

ES = Positive Environmental Samples

New wild poliovirus isolates reported this week:

AFP cases: 0

Environment: 0

New cVDPV isolates reported this week:

AFP cases: 7

Environment: 8

Officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases as of 11 August, 2021

Wild poliovirus (WPV) cases

- **Total global WPV1 cases in 2021: 2 (compared to 97 for the same period in 2020)**
- **Total global WPV1 cases in 2020: 140**

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases

- **Total global cVDPV cases in 2021: 209* (compared to 255 for the same period in 2020)**
- **Total global cVDPV cases in 2020: 1,105****

*** Although there were 7 cases reported last week, only 5 occurred during the 2021 calendar year, with the remaining 2 cases occurring in Mali in 2020.**

**** The 2 cases of cVDPV reported above that occurred in 2020 increased the total 2020 cases from last week’s reported figure of 1,103 to 1,105.**

Summary of new WPV and cVDPV this week (AFP cases and ES positives) by country. For complete details on individual countries, go to <https://polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/this-week/>

- Burkina Faso: one cVDPV2 case
- Côte d'Ivoire: two cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- Ethiopia: one cVDPV2 case and two cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- Mali: two cVDPV2 cases
- Niger: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
- Nigeria: three cVDPV2 cases and three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples