

**Join us on the “last mile” to end polio!!**

***End Polio Now Coordinators/Leaders: Mike Crosby & Marny Eulberg***

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**Almost weekly polio update……….. February 2, 2024**

***Note: no new cases and no positive environmental samples have YET been reported from 2024!!***

**Continued good news—NO new cases of wild poliovirus caused paralysis reported this week, *AND NO* positive environmental samples for WPV1**

 Wild Poliovirus Cases reported this week: None

 Most recent wild poliovirus cases: Afghanistan: 09/04/23 Pakistan: 10/24/23

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| **Human cases confirmed** | As of 1/30/24 | Total | Total | Total | Total |
|  | **2024** | **2023\*** | **2022** | **2021** | **2020** |
| **WPV (Wild Poliovirus)** |  0 | 12  | 30 |  6 |  140 |
| **WPV--Afghanistan** |  0 | 6 |  2 |  4 |  56 |
| **WPV-Pakistan** |  0 | 6 | 20 |  1 |  84 |
| **WPV- Other countries** |  0 | 0 |  8 |  1 |  0 |
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| **Variant (circulating vaccine derived -cVDPV polioviruses** |  0 | 491 (668 at same time in 2022) | 878 | 699 | 1117 |

\*some cases with onset of paralysis in 2023 still likely to be confirmed and reported.

***Virus detected from other sources (environmental) this week (but all collected in 2023, so have been added to 2023 numbers). In { }= year-to-date totals for 2023***

 ***Wild poliovirus= 0; {185} cVDPV (variant) Types 1,2,3= 17; {372}* Variant poliovirus caused 20 cases of polio paralysis reported this week in 6 countries-- so far, all cases are from 2023.** {2 in Chad, 4 in DR Congo (3 of those caused by cVDPV1 & 1 by cVDPV2), 8 in Guinea,1 in Niger, 4 in Nigeria, and 1 in Yemen}



Rick Barry signed basketballs **still** available!

 ***Limited edition Rick Barry signed basketballs are available through June, up to 500 balls total, for your District or club to purchase and use for a fundraiser for polio. Contact*** ***mikePolioPlus@outlook.com*** ***for questions or ordering info.***

**This message was shared with Rotary Regional Leaders this week: (**With RIP Gordon McInally’s emphasis on Mental Health, this is one tie-in that I had not considered when talking about polio eradication. And I should have, because I have often told polio survivors, “We all have psychological scars in addition to the physical scars we have from polio”!)

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By Anette Løwert, End Polio Now Coordinator (Denmark) |    |

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| **Polio and mental health** |
| Paralysis caused by polio has been a significant contributor to disability worldwide, and [living with a disability can bring mental health challenges](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/1138kegy5GS7okHM9KyPlpBe6BTY7). Millions of people have complications from polio they had as children, and many of them have post-polio syndrome. The physical and emotional effects of this can be long-lasting and profound. Helge Gellert, a Rotarian who is now 72 years old, was hospitalized with polio for eight years, starting when he was two years old. He says he saw his mother just twice a year, his birthday and at Christmas. He was  |

 terrified when he went home at age 10, not knowing his family and starting school as the only student with polio paralysis. He’s still affected today by the sadness of not being able to do all he wants to do. Our work toward eradicating polio also means that we’re improving people’s mental health by eliminating the emotional impact of polio. Let’s motivate our members to keep working to end polio by showing them how their donations support the vaccines, materials, transportation, and health-care workers needed to eradicate this paralyzing disease. Let’s also highlight the other effects of protecting children from polio, including ther mental health impact we can prevent.  |

*Note: This update is going out to those on Bob Roger’s previous list and all Zones 2627 DGs and DPPCs. Let me know if you no longer wish to receive these updates or if you have others that should be added. Email me:* *marnyeul@me.com*

*For those of you that send out copies or use this newsletter as a template for sending info to your Polio Warriors, I have added attachments in common formats to this email message.*