A close-up of a card

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**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……….. March 21, 2024**

***Ugh, Ugh—2 new cases of wild poliovirus caused paralysis in Pakistan confirmed this week-- onset of paralysis was in 2023—will these ultimately be added to 2023 numbers or to the 2024 numbers?*** Rumors about these have been around for a few weeks.

Wild Poliovirus Cases reported this week: Two (dates of onset in 2023?)

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Human cases confirmed** | As of 3/12/24 | Total | Total | Total | Total |
|  | **2024** | **2023\*** | **2022** | **2021** | **2020** |
| **WPV (Wild Poliovirus)** | 2 (1 at same time in 2023) | 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 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Variant (circulating vaccine derived -cVDPV polioviruses** | 8 (10 at same time in 2023) | 522 | 878 | 699 | 1117 |

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

***Polioviruses reported from other sources (environmental) this week, and in brackets{} are the total reported from 2023.***

***Wild poliovirus= 21 {187} cVDPV (variant) Types 1,2,3= 21; {409}***

**This week, reports of 12 new variant poliovirus caused polio paralysis –4 from 2024 in 4 countries (1 cases each in Guinea, Mali, Somalia, and Yemen) and 8 cases added to 2023 totals –all in Yemen**

***Monthly Peer-to-peer Zoom meeting TODAY --Thursday March 28 at 4 PM Pacific Time. The correct current link to the Zoom meeting is:***

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.  
Monthly:[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIqd-usqjIqE9N70gz38cIX2w9Zl\_9RM5if/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGuqTsoHtCcsBCARpwAB4iga-jwiFhfj\_pzy0\_iGXMLYSrOZPUbCL5ASer9](https://mailstat.us/tr/t/2z1uxzulr5u4ob5/1/https:/us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIqd-usqjIqE9N70gz38cIX2w9Zl_9RM5if/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGuqTsoHtCcsBCARpwAB4iga-jwiFhfj_pzy0_iGXMLYSrOZPUbCL5ASer9)Join Zoom Meeting  
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86702449097?pwd=SFVibTNwb0hKZHlIdTduNWJOREM2UT09**](https://mailstat.us/tr/t/2z1uxzulr5u4ob5/2/https:/us02web.zoom.us/j/86702449097?pwd=SFVibTNwb0hKZHlIdTduNWJOREM2UT09)  
Meeting ID: **867 0244 9097**  
Passcode: **85718**

**Mark your calendars—dates for upcoming P2P Polio Meetings are Thursdays at 4 PM Pacific (5 PM Mountain) on** April 25, May 16 (one week early because of International Convention), and June 27.

From Reg Ling, Chief Polio Information Officer, Rotary International

**GPEI Polio position updates:**

Keith Paver circulated the week 12 GPEI epidemiological reports and it had 123 pages. I only received the reports this morning and I have hurriedly done the analyses so there may be some minor errors but I wanted to convey the key points. (If there are any errors I will correct them next week.) The reports of 2 WPV1 cases in Balochistan were disappointing. Although the onset of paralyses were in 2023, there were also 21 WPV1 positive ES samples collected across Pakistan that were collected in January. From my reading of Bill Gates’ book, I say more about cases vs. positive ES samples under Media New below, but the widespread presence of the virus in the environment in Pakistan is a concern. There were also reports of cVDPV2 cases and positives ES samples across Africa. The totals are as shown in my usual attachments

**Media News:**

Again, there have been an extraordinary number of news alerts. The greatest concerns were the reports from Pakistan of the 2 new cases in Balochistan and about the many WPV1 positive ES samples collected across the country.

I am continuing to read Bill Gate’s book and, while so far, there is little that I did not know, it has altered my understanding of how positive ES samples relate to cases. In a nutshell, the positive ES samples collected indicate the presence of the viruses in the environment, but the viruses in the samples have a limited infection period – this means that regular collection and testing are necessary to see if the virus presence is sustained i.e. is reintroduced by later contamination? Meanwhile the risk of cases developing is determined by a combination of the population exposed to it and the degree of virus immunity in the community. However, people already immune may be reinfected and could be “silent carriers”, so perpetuating the transmissions. This becomes more problematical if the infected persons travels to areas where the immunity levels are too low. The book is primarily about preventing the next pandemic and takes note that every virus variant is different and it is difficult to predict the severity until several weeks of data is available. Many “expert” projections come without thought of how people may change their behavior.

I must comment too on the strong coverage of RI President Gordon McInally’s trip to Nigeria. Two aspects there have been widely reported, the first on the necessary vigilance for polio and the other on Rotary’s support for mothers and children there. India too has had coverage of its’ immunisations in the context of National Vaccination Day on 16 March.

One news item that I found very interesting was on the genius of Jonas Salk. (Jonas Salk and the History of Testing Vaccines on Institutionalized People.) This puts his life’s work into a much stronger perspective than I had before.

*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*](mailto: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.*