



Dear fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors --

October 24 is [World Polio Day](#), and we have much to celebrate. In 1985 Rotary and its partners committed to [eradicating Polio](#). It has been a slow process and as COVID has proven viruses are much more complex than we first imagined. But we have made tremendous progress.

The number of wild polio cases have declined by 99.9% and over 95% of the Global population lives in a Polio free world. Last year alone over a billion doses of vaccine were administered.

A concern is vaccine derived Polio which happens when the live virus contained in the vaccine is allowed to circulate in the environment because vaccine rates are either low or were stopped. It is not as severe as the wild Polio, but it is still Polio.

To counter this, a new Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 has been developed. So far millions of doses have been administered and to date there has not been any sickness due to the new vaccine.

Rotary is now predicting that the wild polio virus will be gone by 2025. We have gone from 350,000 cases in 1985 to 22. Afghanistan has two cases the rest are from Pakistan and only two provinces have the virus, so it is contained. As mentioned earlier we have much to celebrate.

Please tell your community about our success. Plan an event, send the message to your local media outlets. Whatever you do please tell Governor Richard what you did so he can share your news with our District and other Districts in our Zone.

I have included a [presentation](#) that I will be sharing with my club. Please feel free to make it your own.

Yours in Rotary  
Brian Menton  
District Polio Chair