



# End Polio Now

June 2021

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## New polio eradication strategy takes aim at remaining challenges

Rotary and our Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners have launched the **Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026: Delivering on a Promise** to overcome the remaining challenges to ending polio, including last year's increase in polio cases caused by a pause in vaccination campaigns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders from Pakistan and Afghanistan — the last two countries where wild polio remains endemic — have recommitted to working with the GPEI to improve vaccination campaigns and reach at-risk children. As long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere.

In addition to providing a roadmap to eradication, the new strategy calls for renewed political and financial commitments from governments and donors to achieve a polio-free world. [Learn more](#) about the action underway to eradicate polio.

## Why vaccinations matter

Scientific breakthroughs with vaccines have led to fewer measles outbreaks, the eradication of smallpox, and a reduction in worldwide polio cases by 99%. Building on our decades of experience supporting polio vaccinations, Rotary clubs are helping increase public trust in COVID-19 vaccinations and working toward the equitable distribution of these vaccines.



[Learn more from this infographic](#)

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## Understanding herd immunity

Herd immunity occurs when most of a community becomes immune to a disease, making its spread more unlikely and protecting those who remain vulnerable to it because they cannot receive a vaccination. Rotary's success in helping stop the spread of the wild poliovirus in nearly every country through mass immunization campaigns is proof that community vaccination can achieve and maintain herd immunity.



[Learn more about herd immunity](#)

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## Talking to someone who is vaccine hesitant

As COVID-19 vaccines become available, vaccine hesitancy may remain one obstacle to achieving greater protection for all members of a community. Discussing the facts about vaccines can ease people's anxiety and enable them to make informed decisions about getting vaccinated. As an organization with experience fighting polio, Rotary offers conversation tips that you can use to help people overcome vaccine hesitancy.



[Get tips for discussing the](#)

## [benefits of vaccinations](#)

### Rotary in the news

As Rotary and our partners launch a new polio eradication strategy, Aziz Memon, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee, makes the case to Al-Jazeera about [why we can't give up on the fight against polio](#). Hear from Memon on the steps being taken to fulfill the promise of a polio-free world.

Following World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, spoke with the Voice of America's Africa 54 channel about [reducing vaccine hesitancy and strategies for carrying out immunizations in Nigeria](#). He notes that advocacy is one of Rotary's strengths and a key component in immunization campaigns.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. featured a lengthy segment with Gord Ley, chair of the Rotary Club of Cobourg, Ontario, Canada's COVID-19 vaccine committee. Ley describes how the [club worked with medical facilities and government agencies to develop a mass vaccination site](#) and explains how Rotary's historic role in global polio vaccine distribution is inspiring Rotary members across communities to mobilize in support of COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

### Help Rotary reach our PolioPlus fundraising goal

Rotary is committed to raising \$50 million per year to end polio. With donations matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, every contribution goes even further to eradicate polio. Make your donation to PolioPlus and help us deliver vaccinations to communities around the globe.

[Donate today](#)

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