

11. What is the difference between Biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) and BSL-2/polio?

The primary differences between BSL-2 and BSL-2/polio are that laboratories possessing wild poliovirus infectious and potential infectious materials should, in addition to the standard biosafety requirements, restrict access to these materials, maintain accurate records, and ensure that all staff who enter the laboratory are immunized.

13. Who is conducting the survey?

The Department of Health and Human Services is conducting the survey in partnership with professional organizations, public and private associations, and other Departments and Agencies within the Executive Branch of the United States Government.

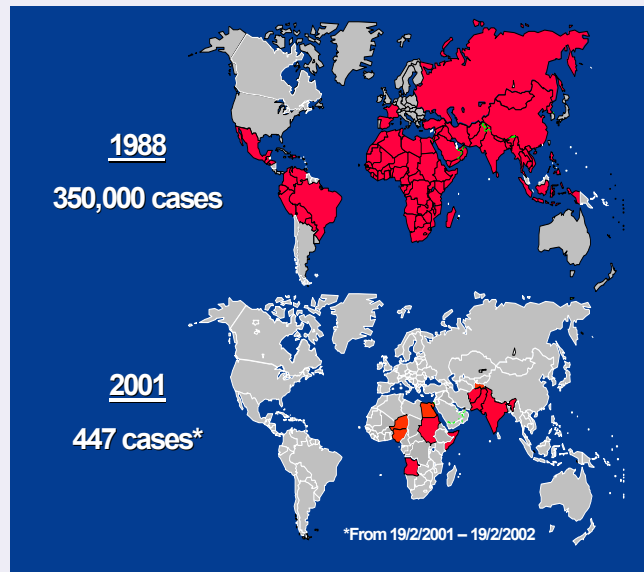
12. Are other countries involved in this survey/inventory process?

Yes, the World Health Assembly has requested the full participation of all countries. National laboratory surveys and inventories are already underway in the Western Pacific, European, Eastern Mediterranean, and Southeast Asia regions.

Additional polio eradication and containment information may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio>



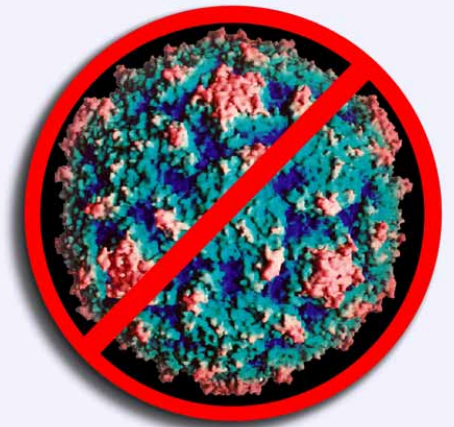
Progress in Polio Eradication



Poliovirus Laboratory Containment Preparedness

Part I

Why all biomedical laboratories are participating in the US Survey for wild poliovirus materials



National Vaccine Program Office

Department of Health and Human Services



The pamphlet answers commonly asked questions about poliovirus laboratory containment and provides additional sources of information.

1. Why is laboratory containment of wild poliovirus important?

Global polio eradication is anticipated within the next few years. The only sources of wild poliovirus will be in biomedical laboratories. Prevention of inadvertent transmission of polioviruses from the laboratory to the community is crucial. The first step toward laboratory containment is a national survey of all biomedical laboratories.

2. I work with polioviruses. Can I continue to do so?

Yes, but laboratories wishing to keep their materials and continue working with them should do so under Biosafety Level 2/polio. When polio is eradicated, you will be notified to implement biosafety measures appropriate for the materials stored and procedures performed.



3. I don't work with poliovirus, why is my laboratory included in the survey?

Wild polioviruses may be present in many biomedical laboratories in clinical and environmental materials collected for any purpose from areas of the world where polio was endemic. Many laboratories may not be aware that such materials are infectious.

4. What is the purpose of the survey?

The survey alerts laboratories to the impending eradication of polio, encourages the disposal of all unneeded wild poliovirus materials, and establishes a national inventory.

5. What is the purpose of the national inventory?

The inventory maintains a current list of laboratories in which wild poliovirus may be present. Laboratories on the inventory will be kept informed of eradication progress, developments in biosafety, and notified one year after the last polio case to implement enhanced biosafety measures appropriate for the materials stored and procedures performed.

6. Who is participating in the survey?

All biomedical laboratories located in academic, federal government, hospital, industry, private, and state or local government facilities.

7. What are wild poliovirus infectious materials?

Wild poliovirus infectious materials include:

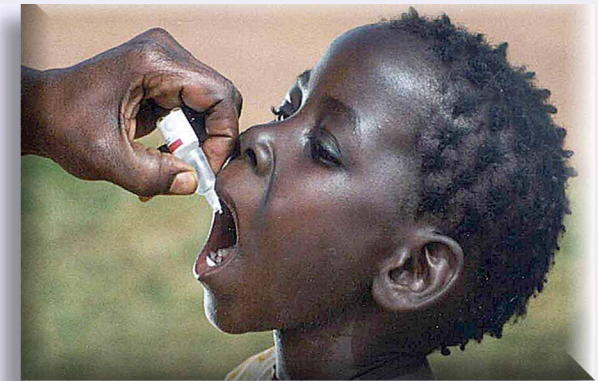
- Wild poliovirus stocks, reference strains, isolates, and research materials with capsid sequences derived from wild polioviruses.
- Clinical materials (throat, fecal, or autopsy specimens) from polio cases or specimens from infected experimental animals.
- Animals (non-human primates and transgenic mice) infected with wild polioviruses.
- Environmental materials in which wild polioviruses are known to be present.
- Vaccine derived polioviruses that have assumed wild virus characteristics of neurovirulence and transmissibility

8. What are potential wild poliovirus infectious materials?

Potential wild poliovirus infectious materials are those collected at a time and geographical area where polio was endemic and include:

- Throat or fecal specimens from studies or field surveys performed for any purpose
- Environmental (water and sewage) specimens
- Untyped enterovirus-like or undifferentiated poliovirus isolates
- Products of such materials in poliovirus permissive cells or animals

Blood and serum specimens are not considered potentially infectious



9. How do I dispose of unneeded materials?

Poliovirus stock or any unneeded materials should be disposed of by autoclaving. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio>.

10. Do I need to complete the survey if I have disposed of or do not have wild poliovirus infectious or potential infectious materials?

Yes, an important component of a systematic and thorough search is documentation that your laboratory does not have such materials.