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

Yes. Laboratories that wish to keep their materials and continue to work with wild polioviruses should do so under Biosafety Level 2/polio. Additional information can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio. When wild poliovirus transmission is interrupted, you will be notified to implement biosafety measures appropriate for the materials stored and procedures performed.

11. Does DHHS need to know the exact amount of wild poliovirus materials held in my laboratory?

Only the approximate number of samples is requested to determine the magnitude of poliovirus containment in terms of laboratory number and relative size of holdings.

12. Why is the national wild poliovirus inventory being conducted separately from the Select Agents Registry?

The notification of possession or use of select agents or high consequence livestock pathogens and toxins is part of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act of 2002. The wild poliovirus inventory is part of the worldwide effort to eradicate polio.

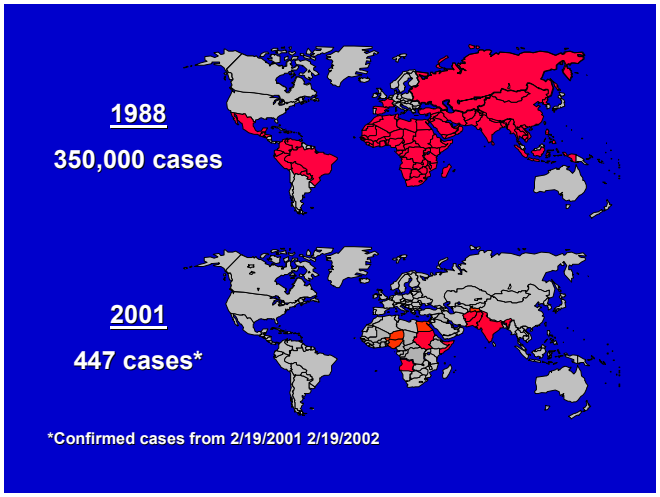
13. Will the national inventory be shared with other parties?

Access to the inventory will be limited to personnel with a need to know to perform their official job duties.

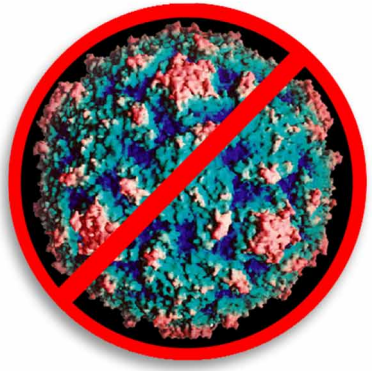
What is polio eradication?

It is the largest international public health effort ever undertaken, with the goal of ridding the world of polio through immunization. It is spearheaded by the World Health Organization, CDC, UNICEF and Rotary International, with the help of many global funding partners and millions of volunteers in developing countries.

Progress in Polio Eradication



National Inventory of Wild Poliovirus Materials



National Vaccine Program Office
Department of Health and Human Services

This pamphlet answers frequently asked questions about the national inventory and poliovirus laboratory containment. Additional information can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio.

1. Why is laboratory containment of wild polioviruses necessary?

When global polio eradication is achieved within the next few years, biomedical laboratories will be the only sources of wild poliovirus. Containing the virus in the laboratory is essential to reduce the risk of inadvertent re-introduction of polio to the community. The first step toward containment is a national inventory of all biomedical laboratories.

2. What is the purpose of the inventory?

Laboratories are alerted to the anticipated successful global eradication of polio and encouraged to destroy all unneeded wild poliovirus materials. Laboratories that retain poliovirus materials for ongoing work will be placed on the national inventory. When wild poliovirus transmission is interrupted, laboratories will be notified to destroy all materials or implement appropriate biosaftety measures to further reduce the risk of transmitting wild poliovirus to the community.

3. Who is conducting the inventory?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is conducting the inventory pursuant to Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C § 241). The inventory will be compiled and maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

4. Who is included in the inventory?

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

5. Are other countries involved in the inventory process?

Yes, in response to the World Health Assembly resolution, national inventories are already underway or completed in 122 countries in the Western Pacific, European, Eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia regions.

6. I don't work with poliovirus. Why is my laboratory included in the inventory?

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.

7. Do I need to submit the inventory if I have disposed of wild poliovirus, infectious or potential infectious materials?

Yes, an important component of the national inventory process is documentation that laboratories do not have such materials.

8. What are wild poliovirus infectious materials?

- Clinical materials from confirmed wild poliovirus infections

- Environmental sewage or water samples in which such viruses are present
- Products of wild polio viruses, including cell culture isolates and reference strains
- Infected animals or samples from such animals
- Research material from laboratory derivatives that have wild poliovirus capsid sequences

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (VDPV) is considered as wild for containment purposes. Detailed definitions and examples can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio.

9. What are potential wild poliovirus infectious materials?

Feces, respiratory secretions, and environmental sewage and water samples collected for any purpose at a time and in a geographic area where wild polioviruses were suspected to be present. Appendix II of the inventory form lists the last documented polio case for polio free countries. The date for the U.S. is 1979. For containment purposes, samples may be considered polio-free immediately after the year of the last documented case. Blood and serum specimens are not considered potentially infectious.