



Department of Health
 Bureau of Quarantine
International Health Surveillance Division
Quarantine Services and International Health Surveillance System (QSIHSS)
Health Information Update

Source: WHO, Event Information Site for IHR National Focal

Event Updates: **26 June 2018**



International Health Surveillance Division
 (IHS)

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Event Updated	Country	Hazard	Disease	Event Description	IHR Assessment
2018-06-26	Papua New Guinea	Infectious	Poliomyelitis, Acute Paralytic, Vaccine Associated	<p>On 21 May 2018, the regional polio reference laboratory reported to WHO the isolation of vaccine derived poliovirus type 1 (VDPV1) from a child with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in Lae, Morobe Province, PNG. The onset of the child's paralysis occurred on 24 April 2018. In response to this single case of VDPV1, enhanced surveillance and active case finding were implemented, including the collection of stool samples from direct and community contacts of the index case. On 20 June, the regional polio reference laboratory notified WHO of the isolation of VDPV1 from the stools of two healthy community contacts of the index case and referred the samples to the global polio reference laboratory. The global reference lab at the US Centers for Disease Control confirmed on 21 June that these two isolates are genetically linked to the index case, indicating the circulation of poliovirus within the community.</p> <p>In response to the detection of poliovirus in the index case, mop-up vaccination was undertaken in Lae where the case lives and in Eastern Highlands Province where the case had stayed prior to onset of paralysis. In addition medical record review and active case search was undertaken in the affected province to identify any missed cases of AFP. Prior to detection of VDPV1 in contacts of the index case, preparations were underway for implementation of broader polio supplementary immunization activities, as well as surveillance system strengthening in the affected province and surrounding provinces. WHO is working with partners to support the Government of Papua New Guinea to undertake appropriate outbreak response measures in accordance with the requirements under the temporary recommendations of the IHR Emergency Committee Regarding the International Spread of Poliovirus and standard operating procedures of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.</p> <p>On 5 May 2014 the Director-General declared the international spread of poliovirus in 2014 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations [IHR 2005], issued Temporary Recommendations to reduce the international spread of poliovirus, and requested a reassessment of this situation by the Emergency Committee every 3 months. Circulating VDPVs are rare but well-documented strains of poliovirus that can emerge in some populations which are inadequately immunized. WHO currently assesses the risk of international spread of poliovirus from Papua New Guinea to be low, as the affected province shares no international borders.</p> <p>WHO's International Travel and Health: http://www.who.int/ith/en/ recommends that all travelers to polio-affected areas be fully vaccinated against polio. Residents (and visitors for more than 4 weeks) from infected areas should receive an additional dose of bivalent oral poliovirus</p>	Public Health Risk

				(bOPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) between 4 weeks and 12 months prior of international travel. Travellers should be provided with a written record of such vaccination, preferably using the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis. Some polio-free countries may require travellers resident in polio affected countries to be immunized against polio in order to obtain an entry visa. The International Travel and Health country list provides a summary of country's requirements for incoming travellers.	
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* A **public health risk** is something that is (or is likely to be) hazardous to human **health** or could contribute to a disease or an infectious condition in humans.