

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: **20 May 2019**

Event Updated	Country	Hazard	Disease	Event Description	IHR Assessment
2019-05-20	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Infectious	Wild poliovirus type 1 from Pakistan isolated in environmental sample in Islamic Republic of Iran	<p>On 9 May 2019, WHO received notification through the Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) of the detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) from an environmental sewage sample (collected on 20 April) in Konarak district, Sistan-Baluchistan Province, Islamic Republic of Iran. The virus was detected in an environmental sample only: no associated cases of paralysis have been detected. Additional sewage sample collected on 4 May (2 weeks after the positive sample) reported to be negative. The affected province borders both Baluchistan, Pakistan, and part of Southern Region, Afghanistan, and genetic sequencing confirmed that the isolated virus is linked to WPV1 currently circulating in Karachi, Pakistan. At the same time, this event further underlines the risk of international spread of WPV1 from Pakistan and Afghanistan.</p> <p>The last laboratory-confirmed indigenous wild polio case was reported in 1997. From 1998–2000, cases were imported from Pakistan/Afghanistan of wild virus circulation. No polio cases have been confirmed in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2001.</p> <p>An immediate risk assessment suggests that this event has limited public health implications, given Iran's very high levels of routine immunization coverage and strong disease surveillance. WHO assesses the risk of further international spread from Pakistan and/or Afghanistan to be high.</p> <p>As per the advice of an Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations (2005), efforts to limit the international spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Countries affected by poliovirus transmission are subject to Temporary Recommendations.</p>	PHEIC

*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.



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