Euro Polio Page

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Assigning "Priority Investigation Codes" and "Hot" cases

The assignment of priority investigation codes to AFP cases is necessary to a fast track system for facilitating the rapid shipment and testing of samples at National and Regional Reference Laboratories and to trigger a detailed case investigation, including travel history, reasons for not being fully vaccinated and contact investigations.

Priority investigation coding:

0 = No priority
1 = Clinical Polio
2 = Less than 3 doses of Polio vaccine
3 = Recent travel to a Polio endemic country
4 = High risk population group
9 = Unknown priority

In cases of importation of wild poliovirus or circulation of a vaccine-derived polio virus in the European Region, these priority codes are critical to ensuring a rapid and effective response that contains the spread of the virus. Priority codes are also used by labs and epidemiologists to help identify "hot cases" – AFP cases with fewer than 3 doses of vaccine, a positive poliovirus isolate and/or other indicators of high risk. This designation ensures rapid follow-up and the highest priority for case investigation and rapid intra-typic differentiation (Wild or Sabin-like characterization) of all isolated viruses.

Keeping the European Region polio free will require continued high coverage with polio vaccine, vigilant surveillance for AFP, and the rapid response to and priority processing of AFP cases. It is therefore *very important* that Priority Investigation Codes be assigned to all AFP cases and reported along with the other AFP case variables to WHO EURO. Thus far in 2007 (see table on this page), of the 1086 AFP cases reported to WHO-EURO, 90 (9%) of AFP cases were reported with missing or unknown priority codes. WHO EURO asks that countries improve their reporting of priority investigation codes as part of their AFP surveillance.

AFP Cases by Priority Investigation Code, 2007

Country	Total AFP Cases	AFP Cases with Priority Investigation Code						
		Missing	0-None	1-Clinical Polio	2-Less than 3 OPV doses	3 Recent Travel in Endemic Countries	4-High Risk Group	9-Unknown
Albania	8		8					
Armenia	6			6				
Austria	2		1		1			
Azerbaijan	19		19					
Belarus	39	4 (10%)	35					
Belgium	3	3 (100%)						
Bulgaria	10		10					
Croatia	1		1					
Cyprus	1	1 (100%)						
Czech Republic	6		4		2			
Georgia	11		9		2			
Germany	41		36		5			
Greece	5		5					
Hungary	4		4					
Ireland	2	1 (50%)	1					
Israel	7		7					
Italy	45	1 (2%)	43		1			
Kazakhstan	37		37					
Kyrgyzstan	19		19					
Latvia	2	1 (50%)	1					
Lithuania	9	2 (22%)	7					
Norway	4		4					
Poland	29		25		4			
Portugal	4	4(100%)						
Republic of Moldova	14		13		1			
Romania	14		14					
Russian Federation	302		266		36			
Serbia	6		5		1			
Slovakia	5	1 (20%)	3				1	
Spain	28		28					
Switzerland	10	5 (50%)	5					
Tajikistan	34		34					
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	3 (100%)						
Turkey	172		102		7			63
Turkmenistan	21		21					
Ukraine	84	1 (1%)	80		3			
Uzbekistan	79		78		1			
Total	1086	27 (2.5%)	925	6	64	0	1	63

Table 1. AFP/Polio Weekly Reporting European Region (all countries), 2007					
Country	Polio Compatible Cases	% Completeness of Reporting	Week of Last Report	Method of Reporting	Country Using "Priority" Coding
Albania	0	94%	37	email	yes
Andorra*	0	91%	38	direct web entry	-
Armenia	0	45%	23	email	yes
Austria	0	100%	37	direct web entry	yes
Azerbaijan	0	94%	37	email	yes
Belarus	0	100%	37	direct web entry	yes
Belgium	0	100%	37	direct web entry	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	72%	35	email	partial
Bulgaria	0	94%	37	direct web entry	yes
Croatia*	0	91%	35	direct web entry	yes
Cyprus	0	100%	37	direct web entry	yes
Czech Republic	0	67%	36	email	
Denmark	0	0%		DNR	-
Estonia	0	100%	38	direct web entry	yes
Finland	0	0%		DNR	-
France	0	0%		DNR	-
Georgia	0	89%	37	email	yes
Germany	0	94%	37	email	yes
Greece	0	97%	37	direct web entry	partial
Hungary	0	97%	38	direct web entry	yes
Iceland	0	0%		DNR	-
Ireland	0	100%	38	direct web entry	yes
Israel	0	94%	37	email	yes
Italy	0	97%	38	direct web entry	yes
Kazakstan	0	86%	37	email	yes
Kyrgyzstan	0	40%	36	email	yes
Latvia	0	97%	36	direct web entry	yes
Lithuania	0	97%	37	direct web entry	yes
Luxembourg	0	0%		DNR	-
Malta*	0	51%	26	email	yes
Monaco	0	0%		DNR	-
Montenegro	0	64%	36	email	-
Netherlands	0	0%		DNR	-
Norway	0	100%	37	direct web entry	yes
Poland	0	100%	38	direct web entry	yes
Portugal	0	64%	24	email	partial
Republic of Moldova	0	91%	38	direct web entry	yes
Romania	0	100%	38	email	partial
Russian Federation	0	86%	36	direct web entry	yes
San Marino	0	0%		DNR	-
Serbia	0	94%	36	email	partial
Slovak Republic	0	97%	37	direct web entry	yes
Slovenia*	0	100%	37	direct web entry	-
Spain	0	100%	38	direct web entry	yes
Sweden	0	59%	22	direct web entry	-
Switzerland	0	100%	37	direct web entry	yes
Tajikistan	0	89%	36	email	yes
T.F.Y.R.Macedonia	0	89%	37	email	no
Turkey	0	97%	37	email	yes
Turkmenistan	0	91%	37	email	yes
Ukraine	0	78%	37	email	yes
United Kingdom	0	0%		DNR	-
Uzbekistan	0	91%	37	email	yes
Average/Totals	0	91%			

Shaded country name indicates country classified as endemic / recently endemic by the Regional Certification Commission in 1996.

* No AFP cases reported to WHO Regional Office for Europe.

DNR-do not report AFP surveillance data.

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TABLE 2. AFP Reporting - European Region, Countries with AFP Surveillance, 2006-2007

Country	2006 (Weeks 1 - 52)			2007 (Weeks 1 - 37)					
	Non-Polio AFP Rate*	% With 2 Stool Specimens**	Surveillance Index***	Number of AFP Cases	Number of Cases Pending §	Number of Cases Priority Pending §§	Non-Polio AFP Rate*	% With 2 Stool Specimens**	Surveillance Index***
Albania	0.36	100%	0.36	8	0	0	1.34	100%	1
Andorra	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Armenia	0.33	50%	0.33	6	0	0	1.19	60%	0.8
Austria	0.72	56%	0.48	2	0	0	0.22	50%	0.11
Azerbaijan	0.86	94%	0.81	19	0	0	1.27	100%	1
Belarus	2.73	92%	0.92	39	0	1	3.84	92%	0.95
Belgium	0.35	17%	0.06	3	1	0	0.24	0%	0.08
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.63	100%	0.63	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Bulgaria	1.83	84%	0.84	10	6	0	1.35	100%	1
Croatia	0	0%	0	1	0	0	0	0%	0
Cyprus	1.83	67%	1	1	0	0	0.85	0%	0
Czech Republic	1.03	87%	1	6	0	0	0.57	100%	0.57
Estonia	0.51	100%	0.51	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Georgia	1.11	100%	1	11	0	1	1.92	82%	0.82
Germany	0.55	44%	0.3	41	0	1	0.49	34%	0.27
Greece	1.2	74%	0.74	5	0	0	0.43	60%	0.26
Hungary	0.96	40%	0.58	4	0	0	0.36	25%	0.36
Ireland	1.06	22%	0.56	2	0	0	0.32	50%	0.16
Israel	0.9	6%	0.58	7	0	0	0.5	0%	0.21
Italy	0.64	65%	0.44	45	10	0	0.76	58%	0.56
Kazakhstan	1.5	94%	0.96	37	0	0	1.55	95%	0.97
Kyrgyzstan	1.7	96%	1	19	1	0	1.59	100%	1
Latvia	0.92	100%	0.92	2	0	0	0.86	100%	0.86
Lithuania	2.36	46%	0.85	9	0	0	2.33	67%	1
Malta	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Montenegro	1.58	100%	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Norway	1.22	27%	0.73	4	1	0	0.61	25%	0.46
Poland	1.08	71%	0.82	29	1	0	0.66	45%	0.44
Portugal	0.3	60%	0.24	4	4	0	0.33	25%	0.16
Republic of Moldova	0.81	83%	0.68	14	3	1	2.69	93%	0.93
Romania	1.16	95%	0.95	14	0	0	0.59	86%	0.51
Russian Federation	1.93	90%	0.92	302	94	25	1.93	93%	0.94
Serbia	1.16	86%	1	6	1	1	0.47	83%	0.39
Slovakia	0.23	100%	0.23	5	0	0	0.8	60%	0.64
Slovenia	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Spain	0.67	43%	0.4	28	1	0	0.6	57%	0.52
Switzerland	1.19	7%	0.14	10	0	0	1.06	11%	0.22
Tajikistan	0.83	100%	0.83	34	4	0	1.86	97%	0.97
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.77	100%	0.77	3	0	0	1.08	67%	1
Turkey	0.9	84%	0.77	172	37	2	1.1	85%	0.88
Turkmenistan	1.25	95%	0.95	21	0	0	1.92	90%	0.9
Ukraine	1.89	94%	0.95	84	9	2	1.8	93%	0.96
Uzbekistan	1.15	99%	0.99	79	2	0	1.25	99%	0.99
Average/Total	1.13	81%	0.86	1086	175	34	0.84	83%	0.74
Recently Endemic	1.34	91%	0.93	829	151	32	1.06	92%	0.93

*Annualized rate per 100 000 children under the age of 15 years. **Bold** = meeting WHO target of 1.0.

Two stool specimens collected at least 24 hrs. apart within 14 days of onset of paralysis and adequately shipped to the laboratory. **Bold = meeting WHO target of 80%.

***Index = non-polio AFP rate up to 1.0 x (% first adequate specimens), **Bold** ≥ 0.8

§ Total number of AFP cases pending final classification 90 days after Date of onset.

§§ Number of AFP cases assigned a priority coding and pending.

All indicators are calculated year to date unless specified otherwise.

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