

Update from the WHO EURO polio program

Essential statistics:

- Regional coverage of routine polio vaccination with at least 3 doses by age one is 95% (criteria > 80%)
- Regional non-polio AFP rate in the first quarter of 2008 is 1.15 (criteria > 1.0)
- All polio laboratories in the region have met WHO certification.

The next meeting of the European Regional Polio Certification Commission is scheduled for 9-11 June 2008 and will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark.



33 Member States participated in the recently conducted third European Immunization Week (21-27 April 2008).

Through European Immunization Week, these countries use the power of advocacy and targeted communications to boost awareness and increase immunization.

Raising awareness of the importance of immunization is vital to sustain a polio-free Region.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine>

The European Region's role in Global Polio Eradication

In 2007, The European Region marked its fifth polio-free year. Globally, a significant progress was made to stop polio transmission. The global number of cases of poliomyelitis *decreased* by 63% from the previous year, and the number of cases due to type 1 wild poliovirus – the most dangerous of the two remaining serotypes – fell by 84%.

Eradiation of poliomyelitis is on the agenda of the coming 61st World Health Assembly (19-24 May 2008). A report ("Poliomyelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication") for the Assembly prepared by the Secretariat includes the following priorities:

1. interruption of transmission of all wild polioviruses globally;
2. protection of areas free of wild poliovirus;
3. characterization of long-term risks associated with circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses, those viruses whose excretion is associated with immunodeficiency and poliovirus stocks;
4. development of safer processes for production of inactivated poliovirus vaccines and affordable strategies for their use;
5. concurrence on mechanisms for coordinating long-term polio risk management and establishing a timeline for initiating these mechanisms.

All of these, in particular the protection of the region's polio-free status and reaching agreement on long-term strategies for managing the risks of circulating VDPV (Vaccine Derived Polio Virus) and poliovirus containment, are priority issues and challenges faced by the European Region.

The report

1. URGES all remaining poliomyelitis-affected Member States to engage all levels of political and civil society in order to ensure that every child is vaccinated during every supplementary immunization activity against poliomyelitis and note that this goal applies to European member states as well;
2. URGES all Member States:
 1. to strengthen active surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in order to detect rapidly any circulating poliovirus and prepare for certification of poliomyelitis eradication;
 2. to complete the activities outlined in phase I of the WHO global action plan for laboratory containment of wild polioviruses and prepare to implement appropriate long-term safeguards and biocontainment conditions for remaining wild polioviruses within at most 12 months after detection of the last case of poliomyelitis caused by a circulating wild virus;
 3. to achieve rapidly and to maintain routine immunization coverage against poliomyelitis at a level greater than 80% of the childhood population;
 4. to make available rapidly the necessary financial resources to eradicate poliomyelitis, and to minimize the risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis after interruption of wild poliovirus transmission.

A copy of the full report by the Secretariat "Poliomyelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication" could be found at:
http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A61/A61_5-en.pdf .

Table 1. Weekly AFP reporting and surveillance process indicators, 2007-2008

Country	% Completeness of weekly AFP reporting in 2008	Week of last report in 2008	Reported AFP cases		% of AFP cases where at least one stool collected within 14 days of onset		% of AFP cases with <= 7 days between onset and notification		% of AFP cases with <= 48 hours between notification and investigation		% of AFP cases where follow up is done 60 to 90 days after onset	
			2007 (Weeks 1-52)	2008 (Weeks 1-17)	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Albania	82.0	16	10	2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Andorra	100.0	17	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Armenia	52.0	17	15	5	93.3	100.0	80.0	100.0	60.0	80.0	33.3	0.0
Austria	100.0	16	4	0	25.0	...	50.0	...	75.0	...	50.0	...
Azerbaijan	100.0	17	24	9	100.0	100.0	41.7	33.3	95.8	100.0	100.0	0.0
Belarus	52.0	17	51	14	94.1	92.9	84.3	85.7	96.1	100.0	96.1	80.0
Belgium	100.0	17	9	0	11.1	...	11.1	...	100.0	...	44.4	...
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88.0	17	3	1	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	33.3	0.0
Bulgaria	94.0	17	11	6	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	90.9	83.3	72.7	100.0
Croatia	52.0	14	0	0	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...
Cyprus	100.0	17	1	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Czech Republic	58.0	17	8	4	100.0	100.0	87.5	50.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	100.0
Denmark	No AFP Surveillance*											
Estonia	100.0	17	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Finland	No AFP Surveillance*											
France	No AFP Surveillance*											
Georgia	94.0	16	13	0	84.6	...	61.5	...	92.3	...	100.0	...
Germany	88.0	16	64	24	43.8	41.7	37.5	50.0	60.9	37.5	67.2	87.5
Greece	88.0	16	15	2	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	86.7	0.0
Hungary	94.0	16	8	5	100.0	100.0	62.5	0.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	0.0
Iceland	No AFP Surveillance*											
Ireland	64.0	10	2	0	50.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...
Israel	64.0	17	9	2	44.4	0.0	44.4	50.0	88.9	100.0	0.0	0.0
Italy	47.0	14	63	28	66.7	82.1	85.7	82.1	63.5	17.9	60.3	44.4
Kazakhstan	76.0	16	54	24	98.1	100.0	87.0	95.8	88.9	95.8	100.0	100.0
Kyrgyzstan	41.0	14	37	1	100.0	100.0	94.6	100.0	86.5	100.0	73.0	0.0
Latvia	94.0	17	3	1	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	0.0
Lithuania	70.0	17	13	5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	84.6	100.0	100.0	0.0
Luxembourg	No AFP Surveillance*											
Malta	82.0	14	0	0	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...
Moldova	88.0	17	15	1	93.3	100.0	53.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	73.3	0.0
Monaco	No AFP Surveillance*											
Montenegro	88.0	15	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Netherlands	No AFP Surveillance*											
Norway	70.0	15	6	5	66.7	60.0	33.3	20.0	66.7	100.0	33.3	0.0
Poland	76.0	14	39	8	84.6	37.5	89.7	75.0	53.8	25.0	71.8	75.0
Portugal	0.0	...	4	0	50.0	...	0.0	...	50.0	...	0.0	...
Romania	41.0	13	17	6	88.2	100.0	88.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.1	50.0
Russian Federation	82.0	17	355	122	93.5	98.4	84.2	88.5	94.9	95.1	84.2	41.4
San Marino	No AFP Surveillance*											
Serbia	76.0	17	9	6	77.8	100.0	55.6	100.0	88.9	100.0	88.9	50.0
Slovakia	100.0	17	4	0	100.0	...	75.0	...	100.0	...	100.0	...
Slovenia	94.0	16	0	0	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...	0.0	...
Spain	94.0	16	37	6	83.8	66.7	45.9	66.7	94.6	100.0	75.7	50.0
Sweden	47.0	8	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Switzerland	82.0	15	18	1	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	5.6	100.0
Tajikistan	11.0	...	41	4	97.6	100.0	78.0	0.0	73.2	0.0	75.6	0.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	76.0	17	5	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	0.0
Turkey	82.0	17	233	43	88.0	81.4	69.1	51.2	99.6	97.7	69.5	84.2
Turkmenistan	70.0	17	26	2	92.3	100.0	84.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Ukraine	76.0	16	116	37	97.4	94.6	87.1	91.9	97.4	97.3	99.1	100.0
United Kingdom	No AFP Surveillance*											
Uzbekistan	35.0	17	103	27	99.0	100.0	94.2	96.3	94.2	85.2	92.2	100.0
Average/Totals	77.0	...	1445	403	87.0	89.0	77.0	78.0	87.0	89.0	79.0	62.0

...: Denominator not sufficient to calculate this rate/indicator.

*High quality surveillance (e.g. enterovirus and/or environmental) to detect poliovirus exists in Member States with no AFP surveillance.

TABLE 2: Classification of AFP cases and key AFP surveillance indicators, 2007-2008

Country	2007 (Weeks 1 - 52)					2008 (Weeks 1-17)							
	Polio Compatible	Pendig Classification Total	Surveillance Rates / Index			AFP Cases	Polio Compatible	Pending Classification			Surveillance Rates / Index		
			Non-Polio AFP Rate ¹ Target ≥ 1.00	% With 2 Stool Specimens ² Target ≥ 80.0%	Surveillance Index ³ Target ≥ 0.8			Total	Hot ⁴ Cases	Total >90 Days ⁵	Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate ¹ Target ≥ 1.00	% With 2 Stool Specimens ² Target ≥ 80.0%	Surveillance Index ³ Target ≥ 0.8
Albania	0	0	1.23	100.0	1.00	2	0	0	0	0	0.76	100.0	0.76
Andorra	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Armenia	1	0	2.60	66.7	0.93	5	0	4	1	1	2.75	80.0	1.00
Austria	0	0	0.33	0.0	0.08	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Azerbaijan	0	0	1.17	100.0	1.00	9	0	9	0	0	1.38	100.0	1.00
Belarus	0	0	3.67	92.2	0.94	14	0	9	4	1	3.14	92.9	0.93
Belgium	0	2	0.52	0.0	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0.48	100.0	0.48	1	0	1	0	0	0.50	0.0	0.00
Bulgaria	0	0	1.09	100.0	1.00	6	0	6	0	1	1.84	100.0	1.00
Croatia	1	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Cyprus	0	0	0.62	100.0	0.62	1	0	1	0	0	1.92	100.0	1.00
Czech Republic	0	0	0.56	87.5	0.56	4	0	1	0	0	0.87	75.0	0.87
Estonia	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Georgia	0	0	1.66	84.6	0.85	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Germany	0	0	0.56	29.7	0.24	24	0	13	0	0	0.65	33.3	0.27
Greece	0	0	0.95	66.7	0.64	2	0	1	0	0	0.39	100.0	0.39
Hungary	0	0	0.52	37.5	0.52	5	0	5	0	0	1.02	60.0	1.00
Ireland	0	0	0.23	50.0	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Israel	0	0	0.47	11.1	0.21	2	1	0	0	0	0.31	0.0	0.00
Italy	0	13	0.78	54.0	0.52	28	0	24	0	5	1.06	67.9	0.82
Kazakhstan	0	0	1.65	96.3	0.98	24	0	15	0	0	2.28	100.0	1.00
Kyrgyzstan	0	7	2.27	94.6	1.00	1	0	1	0	0	0.19	100.0	0.19
Latvia	0	0	0.95	66.7	0.95	1	0	1	0	0	0.99	100.0	0.99
Lithuania	0	0	2.46	61.5	1.00	5	0	3	0	0	3.01	80.0	1.00
Malta	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Moldova	0	0	2.11	93.3	0.93	1	0	1	0	0	0.44	100.0	0.44
Montenegro	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Norway	0	0	0.67	16.7	0.45	5	0	2	0	0	1.72	20.0	0.60
Poland	0	0	0.65	66.7	0.55	8	0	5	0	1	0.42	37.5	0.16
Portugal	0	4	0.24	25.0	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Romania	0	0	0.53	88.2	0.47	6	0	12	1	0	0.57	100.0	0.57
Russian Federation	0	0	1.67	91.8	0.94	122	0	106	14	15	1.75	94.3	0.98
Serbia	0	0	0.52	77.8	0.40	6	0	4	0	1	1.07	83.3	1.00
Slovakia	0	0	0.47	75.0	0.47	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Slovenia	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Spain	0	0	0.58	56.8	0.49	6	0	4	0	0	0.29	33.3	0.19
Sweden	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Switzerland	0	1	1.56	5.6	0.22	1	0	0	0	0	0.27	0.0	0.00
Tajikistan	0	1	1.64	95.1	0.98	4	0	4	0	0	0.49	100.0	0.49
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0	0	1.32	80.0	1.00	1	0	1	0	0	0.82	100.0	0.82
Turkey	0	0	1.08	85.0	0.88	43	0	23	2	3	0.61	72.1	0.50
Turkmenistan	0	0	1.74	92.3	0.92	2	0	2	0	0	0.41	100.0	0.41
Ukraine	0	0	1.82	94.8	0.97	37	0	26	0	0	1.83	94.6	0.95
Uzbekistan	0	0	1.19	99.0	0.99	27	0	24	0	3	0.96	100.0	0.96
Average/Total	2	28	1.11	82.0	0.88	403	1	308	22	31	0.62	83.0	0.55

¹Non polio AFP cases per 100 000 children under the age of 15 years (annualized for year 2008)

²Two stool specimens collected at least 24 hrs. apart within 14 days of onset of paralysis and adequately shipped to the laboratory.

³Surveillance Index = non-polio AFP rate up to 1.0 x (% AFP cases with atleast 1 adequate specimens within 14 days of onset).

⁴Hot Cases = AFP case reported with a priority code (e.g. less than three doses of polio vaccine/Clinically polio/Recent travel to endemic country/high risk group)

⁵Total number of AFP cases pending final classification 90 days after date of onset.