



World Polio Day 2023

Updated October 4, 2023

World Polio Day (October 24) provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honor the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate polio from every corner of the globe. Through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), CDC works with partners to eradicate polio and end the suffering from this devastating disease.

It's Time to Make Polio History

In 1988, poliovirus was present in 125 countries, paralyzing an estimated 1,000 children per day. That year, the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\)](#) launched, with a goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

Over the past 35 years, GPEI has made remarkable progress towards this goal. Cases of wild poliovirus have decreased by more than 99% – from 350,000 cases per year to fewer than 10 annual cases of wild polio. The disease remains consistently present in just two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But challenges remain. As long as wild poliovirus continues to circulate in Afghanistan and Pakistan, all countries are at risk of wild poliovirus being imported. Outbreaks of [poliovirus variants](#) – which emerge when not enough children are vaccinated against polio – present an additional and pressing challenge in multiple countries.

On World Polio Day, CDC commemorates this progress and joins its GPEI partners in the call to overcome the barriers to Make Polio History once and for all.

Spread the Word!

Digital content from CDC and partners is available to spread the word about ending polio – on World Polio Day and beyond!

Digital Content from CDC

Three members of CDC's smallpox eradication team pose with a helicopter pilot in Ethiopia in 1976.

#MakePolioHistory

The last time a human disease was eradicated, CDC's field team dressed like this.

[CDC.gov/polio](https://www.cdc.gov/polio)

Sample post: Did you know only one human disease (smallpox) has been eradicated? We're close to changing that count. #MakePolioHistory #WorldPolioDay



Yar Muhammad holds his daughter, Bibi, as she receives an oral polio vaccine at a community center in Quetta, Balochistan province, Pakistan. ©UNICEF/U.S. CDC/UNI409818/Bashir

Feature Story

Stopping an Outbreak in Its Tracks: Polio Response in Mozambique



In 2022 – in addition to multiple health, and humanitarian, and environmental issues facing the country – Mozambique was found to be the epicenter of an outbreak of wild poliovirus first detected in Malawi. Learn how CDC helped address this outbreak. Photos courtesy of Luciana Flannery/CDC

CDC and WHO Science on Polio

- [Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Afghanistan, January 2022–June 2023](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2 Emergences Linked to Novel Oral Poliovirus Vaccine Type 2 Use — Six African Countries, 2021–2023](#)
- [Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Pakistan, January 2022–June 2023](#)



#MakePolioHistory

Polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere.



CDC.gov/polio

Sample post: To end polio, national health organizations worldwide must increase vaccination levels in all places, focusing where the virus is most likely to spread. #MakePolioHistory #WorldPolioDay

[Surveillance To Track Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Worldwide, 2021–2022](#)

[Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Worldwide, January 2021–March 2023](#)

[Update on Wild Poliovirus Type 1 Outbreak — Southeastern Africa, 2021–2022](#)

[Update on Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Outbreaks — Worldwide, January 2021–December 2022](#)

The STOP Program



The STOP Program recruits, trains, and deploys a public health workforce that has been engaged in the global fight to eradicate polio for over 20 years.

About Polio

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis (can't move parts of the body).



World Polio Day ♦ October 24

A polio threat anywhere is a threat everywhere. Together, let's end polio!



#VaccinesWork CDC.gov/polio

Sample post: October 24 is #WorldPolioDay! Together, we can #EndPolio.



Sample post: On #WorldPolioDay and beyond, let's recognize the tremendous progress and show support for support those working tirelessly to #EndPolio.



Sample post: 35 years ago, wild poliovirus was present in 125 countries – paralyzing 1,000+ children per day. Today, it's only present in 2. Time to #MakePolioHistory. #WorldPolioDay

[More Digital Polio Resources](#)

Partner Content

- [World Polio Day Resources](#) (Rotary International)
Use the tools on this webpage to share the message that we can and we will end polio for good.
- [Make Polio History](#) (GPEI)
Hear from supporters around the world – including polio champions like Bill Nye and the Indigo Girls –who are raising their voices for polio eradication.

Last Reviewed: September 29, 2023
Source: [Global Immunization](#)