

Epidemiological Update

Sabin type 3 vaccine-associated poliovirus

27 November 2018

Situation Summary

The following is updated information regarding the case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) with detection of Sabin type 3 vaccine poliovirus, which was previously reported in the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Epidemiological Update on 15 June 2018.¹

The case is a 34-month-old unvaccinated male resident of an indigenous community in Delta Amacuro, Venezuela, who had onset of paralysis on 29 April 2018. The clinical-epidemiological investigation indicated that flaccid paralysis of a lower limb persisted as of 11 June 2018. Other children from the same community were vaccinated with a bivalent oral polio vaccine in April, so the case may have contracted the infection through the fecal-oral route. The child will continue with a physical rehabilitation program along with physical therapy and orthopedics.

On 19 July 2018, the Venezuelan National Certification Committee for the Eradication of Polio ruled out that the case of AFP was caused by a wild poliovirus or by a vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV). Given the case history, epidemiological investigation findings, laboratory tests, and neurological evaluation, the independent scientific committee classified the case as vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP), which does not entail risk of outbreaks or secondary transmission.

No additional AFP cases have been identified through an active search for AFP cases carried out in the community.

Advice to national authorities

PAHO/WHO reiterates to Member States the importance of reaching and maintaining polio vaccination coverage greater than 95% in each district or municipality; maintaining high-quality epidemiological surveillance and updating national poliovirus outbreak response plans.

As part of the eradication documentation process, countries should conduct risk analyses at the sub-national level and develop mitigation plans for identified risks.

¹ PAHO/WHO. Epidemiological Update, Detection of Sabin type 3 vaccine poliovirus in a case of Acute Flaccid Paralysis. 15 June 2018, Washington, D.C. PAHO/WHO. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2Q6AgE7>

References

1. PAHO/WHO. Final report of the 3rd Ad-Hoc Meeting of the TAG. Ad-hoc Virtual Meeting, 19 March 2018. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2Jt8lrH>
2. PAHO/WHO. Polio Weekly Bulletin, 2018. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2GelAdn>
3. PAHO/WHO. Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) Introduction; Frequently Asked Questions. 2014. Available at: <https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2014/IPV-IntroductionFAQ-e.pdf>
4. WHO. Polio vaccines: WHO position paper – March 2016. Weekly Epidemiological Record, No. 12, 2016, 91, 145-168. Available at: <http://www.who.int/wer/2016/wer9112.pdf?ua=1>