

INFORMATION PAPER

DHA-IHB
29 April 2016

SUBJECT: Vaccination Recommendation for Travel to Countries with Poliovirus Transmission

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on immunization against the poliovirus.

2. Facts.

a. On 5 May 2014, the WHO declared that the international spread of polio constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

b. On 12 February 2016, the WHO held the eighth Emergency Committee meeting regarding the spread of poliovirus. The committee reviewed the data on circulating wild poliovirus as well as circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (cVDPV).

(1) Two countries are currently considered to have active transmission of wild-type poliovirus: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Six countries have reported outbreaks of cVDPV: Ukraine, Madagascar, Guinea, Nigeria, Myanmar, and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

(2) Six countries are no longer infected by poliovirus but remain vulnerable to international spread or to the emergence and circulation of wild-type poliovirus: Somalia, Iraq, Israel, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and South Sudan.

c. The WHO Director General has published a series of recommendations intended to prevent exportation of polio from any of the transmitting countries.

d. On 7 July 2014, the CDC issued interim guidance for polio vaccination for travel to and from countries affected by wild poliovirus. The recommendations for vaccination under the WHO differ from previous ACIP and CDC recommendations and include exit requirements for proof of polio vaccination when leaving the country at borders and airports. If implemented by a country, these requirements could be mandatory. In addition, the WHO PHEIC could change when it is reassessed. To ensure US personnel are properly prepared for any vaccination requirements when departing a polio-exporting or polio-infected country, the CDC provides the following guidance:

(1) Adults who will be in a polio-exporting or polio-infected country for >4 weeks and whose last dose of polio vaccine was administered >12 months before the date they will be departing that country, should be given an additional dose of polio vaccine.

(2) These recommendations apply to uniformed personnel, DoD civilian employees, DoD contractors, and accompanying dependents. Contractors should be

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provided vaccine by their employer, according to the terms of their contract.

(3) Failure to provide proof of polio vaccination within the previous 12 months may result in the traveler being denied permission to leave the country. Personnel without proof of vaccination may be required to receive vaccination in the host country in order to meet the exit requirements.

e. Vaccine. The inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) is the only polio vaccine currently available in the United States. There is no evidence that additional booster doses of IPV are harmful to children or adults.

f. Documentation.

(1) Document the polio immunization on the CDC-731 International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (yellow shot record). Document the date of vaccine administration, manufacturer, and the batch/lot number. Leave the section about dates of validity blank. If you do NOT have an official stamp, record the name of the vaccination clinic and signature of the provider. Transcribe all previous adult polio booster doses on the CDC-731. Document all historical and current polio virus vaccinations for uniformed personnel in the appropriate service immunization tracking system and/or electronic medical record.

(2) Personnel will maintain a current copy of the CDC-731, with the original signature and stamp, when travelling to, or residing in the transmitting countries.

(3) Purchase the CDC-731 from the Government Printing Office (GPO) at http://bookstore.gpo.gov/search/apachesolr_search/cdc%20731.

(i) Pack of 100: GPO stock #: 017-001-00566-5

(ii) Pack of 25: GPO stock #: 017-001-00567-3

g. Exemptions. A medical assume (MA) or medical immune (MI) exemption will not be acceptable for travel to the ten identified countries.

3. References.

a. WHO. Statement on the Eighth IHR Emergency Committee Meeting Regarding the International Spread of Poliovirus, 12 February 2016.

b. CDC. Interim CDC Guidance for Polio Vaccination for Travel to and from Countries Affected by Wild Poliovirus. MMWR 2014; 63: 1-4

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