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The First Exclusive E-Newsletter for Journalists

POLIO JOURNAL

Weekly

March (3rd Week) 2009, 31st Edition



Case Update
One new polio case detected, total number of cases: 09



Initiative Update
Health and Interior minister inaugurates the NADRA initiative



We are Winning!
Federal Minister for Information Inaugurates the Polio control cell



Reporter of the Week:
Javed Ali (Daily Jang - Peshawar) on a special report ...

Polio Case Counter 2009	
Islamabad	0 Cases
Balochistan	0 Cases
Punjab	2 Cases
Sindh	3 Cases
NWFP	04 Cases (FATA = 2)
Total	09 Cases

Polio Case Counter 2008	
Islamabad	5 Cases
Balochistan	11 Cases
Punjab	31 Cases
Sindh	18 Cases
NWFP	53 Cases (FATA = 14)
Total	118 Cases

Global Polio Case Counter	
INDIA	17 Cases
NIGERIA	51 Cases
AFGHANISTAN	04 Cases
Total global cases including non endemic countries	110 Cases
Total Cases Last Year: 1643	

The goal of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is to ensure that no child will ever again know the crippling effects of polio. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is the largest public health initiative the world has ever known.

CASE UPDATE: There was a new confirmed type-3 polio case reported on 12th March 2009 from Baldia town, Karachi bringing the total number of polio cases to date in 2009 to 9. This is the second type-3 case this month from Baldia town Karachi. Hafza d/o Muhammad Zafar is an 18-month old female child from a Pushto speaking family residing in Union Council 2 of Baldia Town Karachi. The child has onset of paralysis on 25th February 2009.

Campaign Update:
Next Polio Campaign: The Next Polio round (ongoing) is to be held from the 16th to the 18th of March 2009 in all districts of the country targeting 35 million children under the age of 5. More than 85,000 polio teams have been constituted to scan the length and breadth of the country. (Refer to upcoming edition of Polio Journal for more updates on the ongoing Polio round.

INITIATIVE UPDATE: Federal Ministers for Health and Interior Inaugurate the NADRA Initiative ...
The Federal Minister for Health and the Advisor to the Prime Minister for Interior gave polio vaccine to children and inaugurated the campaign. The Health Minister stated that no social sector initiative can succeed in the absence of strong inter-sectoral collaboration, and thanked NADRA for showing the way to other organizations that can similarly offer their infrastructure and facilities for expanding nationwide immunization coverage. The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) had agreed to support all future NIDs campaigns by establishing special vaccination points at their mobile registration vehicles in a ceremony chaired jointly by the Federal Minister for Health and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Ministry for Interior. A total of 185 NADRA vans will work as polio vaccination points in coordination with the district health authorities during the campaign. NADRA will promote the polio campaign as well as routine EPI along with the registration work.

WE ARE WINNING: National Polio Control Cell with 0800-POLIO Kicks off ...
A National Polio Control Cell is being established to engage key media throughout the country and to ensure more children are reached with polio vaccine during campaigns. The cell will start working from 18th March and will be bigger and better than before, building on the previous success. State-owned PTV News/PTV Home and popular news television channels from private sector, HumTV, Samaa and Apna partner for the control cell which will be based at PTV. For the cell the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has allotted a special toll free number (0800-POLIO) and 35 phone lines to facilitate callers willing to get in touch with the polio control cell with information on missed houses/children. It will help to provide information on the polio campaigns during the polio rounds. The Federal Minister for Information Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira inaugurated the polio control cell by taking the first call when phone lines open on Wednesday 18 March at 9 AM. The Highway Motorway Police will continue to support the polio teams at all tollway plazas throughout the country and will hold a special ceremony at the Tollway Plaza in Islamabad this week.

REPORTER OF THE WEEK: Javed Ali (Daily Jang) Peshawar Bureau ...
Last Time Reporter of the Week: Last Week
Professional Career: He is covering health / Political beats for the Peshawar Bureau of Daily Jang these days.
Current Report: Another well researched package and report on the rising number of polio cases in NWFP.

Your Feed Back
Akhter Shaheen Rind, GEO TV, Karachi
"As for I know, the second polio case of sindh is reported in Shikarpur not in Karachi. Earlier family was in Baldia town but onset started in Shikarpur, samples were sent from Shikarpur and report was also returned to Shikarpur."
Answer: The case was notified from Shikarpur district and samples were collected in Shikarpur. The child however had onset of paralysis in Karachi and he (and the family) was in Karachi for a period of little over a month preceding the onset of paralysis (likely period the child could get infection). Genomic sequencing data shows that the virus isolated from the case is related with earlier viruses reported from central Sindh. Based on the available data, the child received infection in Karachi and the case represents ongoing circulation of wild poliovirus type-3 in the central Sindh.

Did You Know?
The History of the Deadly Polio Virus Polio ...
Or more properly poliomyelitis, was one of the most feared and studied diseases of the first half of the 20th Century. It appeared unpredictably, striking its victims, mostly children, with a frightening randomness that resulted in near panic during the epidemics of the 1940s and 50s. Then, in 1955, a breakthrough occurred when, after massive field trials involving nearly two-million children, the Salk vaccine was shown to be effective in preventing the disease. Today, polio is all-but-forgotten as it has completely disappeared from developed countries, and worldwide eradication is predicted by 2005. However, polio's legacy remains. It is estimated that there are 600,000 polio survivors living in the United States, and the number worldwide must be in the tens of millions.