

Containment: An Important Part of Ending Polio

The world is working to end polio. The U.S. National Authority for Containment of Poliovirus (U.S. NAC), located in the CDC Office of Readiness and Response's Division of Regulatory Science and Compliance, implements poliovirus containment within United States facilities. We help reduce the risk of eradicated polioviruses getting out from the places where they are worked with or stored.



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Why It Matters

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease. CDC and its national and international partners have made significant progress towards polio eradication.

Why CDC?

CDC has a long history in the worldwide fight against poliovirus. On December 2, 2011, the agency declared polio eradication a public health emergency. It activated an incident management system to coordinate the response. Since then, over 760 staff have contributed over 970,000 hours and almost 3,000 field deployments in support of this mission.

CDC assists with outbreak response, laboratory testing, disease surveillance, vaccination campaign planning, program monitoring and evaluation, and research. The agency supports global containment efforts with expertise in oversight, monitoring of biosafety, and security in laboratories.

4 Pillars of Polio Containment



Identify:

CDC surveys laboratories and facilities across the United States to identify any materials that may contain poliovirus.



Destroy:

U.S. laboratories and facilities should eliminate all unneeded poliovirus materials to reduce containment risks.



Transfer:

Laboratories and facilities in the United States can move needed poliovirus materials to approved poliovirus designated facilities (PVDFs).



Contain:

CDC certifies PVDFs to ensure they meet requirements for continued work with polioviruses.

Poliovirus Containment is Necessary to Ensure Polio Stays Eradicated

Wild poliovirus type 2 (WPV2) and wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) have been declared eradicated, and containment measures are in place for laboratories and facilities that handle or store these viruses. As global eradication of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) nears, the United States has initiated engagement with facilities retaining WPV1 to ensure compliance with containment requirements. Poliovirus containment efforts focus on all eradicated polioviruses and those targeted for eradication, including WPV1.

Vaccinating People Against Poliovirus is Still Important

Polio vaccine provides the best protection against polio disease. Two types of vaccines are used to prevent polio disease – inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and oral polio vaccine (OPV).

