



WHO Statement
on
IHR Emergency Committee
Meeting on Wild Poliovirus

Background

- **Emergency Committee (EC) convened by the DG/WHO under IHR (2005) met on 13 May 2014**
- **Following affected State Parties (10) participated in the informational session: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia & Syria**
- **EC acknowledged that the international spread of wild poliovirus constitutes an ‘extraordinary event’ & a public health risk to other States for which a coordinated international response is essential**
- **Unanimous decision of EC - Conditions for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) have been met**
- **DG accepted EC’s assessment & declared the international spread of wild poliovirus as a PHEIC on on 5 May 2014**

International spread of wild poliovirus

- In 2013, out-of reported cases, 60% were the result of international spread & there was increasing evidence that adult travelers contributed to this spread
- States currently exporting wild polioviruses (3): Cameroon, Pakistan & Syria
- States infected with wild poliovirus but not currently exporting (7): Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Israel, Nigeria & Somalia
- The large number of polio-free but conflict-torn & fragile States which have severely compromised routine immunization services & are at high risk of re-infection

WHO Recommendations

- **Assure support for immediate & full application of polio eradication strategies, specifically:**
 - **Routine immunization**
 - **Supplementary immunization campaigns with OPV**
 - **Surveillance for poliovirus**
- **As much international spread occurs across land borders, WHO will continue to facilitate a coordinated regional approach**

States affected with wild poliovirus

10 countries. They should

- **Officially declare that the interruption of poliovirus transmission is a national public health emergency**
- **Ensure that all residents & long-term visitors (> 4 weeks) receive a dose of OPV or IPV between 4 weeks & 12 months prior to international travel**
- **Ensure that those undertaking urgent travel & not received a dose of OPV or IPV in the previous 4 weeks to 12 months, receive a dose at least by the time of departure as this will still provide benefit**
- **Ensure that such travelers are provided with an International Certificate of Vaccination**

Criteria for removal from the list

States currently exporting wild polioviruses

- At least 6 months have passed without new exportations & there is documentation of full application of high quality eradication activities
- in the absence of such documentation these measures should be maintained until at least 12 months have passed without new exportations
- Once a State has met the criteria to be assessed as no longer exporting wild poliovirus, it should continue to be considered as an infected State until such time as it has met the criteria to be removed from that category

Criteria for removal from the list

States infected with wild poliovirus but not currently exporting

- At least 6 months have passed without detection of wild poliovirus transmission in the country & there is documentation of full application of high quality eradication activities
- in the absence of such documentation these measures should be maintained until at least 12 months have passed without new exportations