

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



HEALTH INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

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3/23/2022

Some countries in Asia and Eastern Europe are at as high risk for polio

Dear Healthcare Partners,

*If you have provided us with an email address, this information has also been emailed to you.

It is also posted on our website under SERVICES and then INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS*

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) has declared the following - Some countries in Asia and Eastern Europe countries are at as high risk for polio:

- Afghanistan
- Iran (healthcare facilities, refugee camps, and humanitarian aid settings only)
- Israel
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Ukraine*
- Yemen

What providers need to know:

- **Everyone** should be fully vaccinated against [poliovirus](#) according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule (see [Polio Vaccination: Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)).
- **Some international destinations** are considered [high risk](#) for polio.
- **Ensure** that anyone unvaccinated, incompletely vaccinated, or with an unknown polio vaccination status completes the routine [polio vaccine series before international travel](#).

Infants and Children

CDC recommends that all infants and children in the United States are vaccinated against polio with four doses of the IPV vaccine given at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years. **Infants and children traveling to areas where the risk of getting polio is greater should complete the routine series before departure.**

If a child cannot complete the routine series before departure, an **accelerated schedule is recommended** as follows:

- First dose at age 6 weeks or older
- Second dose 4 or more weeks after the first dose
- Third dose 4 or more weeks after the second dose
- Fourth dose 6 or more months after the third dose
- If the accelerated schedule cannot be completed before leaving, the remaining doses should be given in the affected country, or upon return home, at the intervals recommended in the accelerated schedule. In addition, children completing the accelerated schedule should still receive a dose of IPV at 4 years old or older, if it has been at least 6 months after the previous dose.

Adult Travelers

CDC recommends administering a single, [lifetime booster dose](#) of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) to adult travelers that meet all three of the following conditions:

- Are going to destinations considered high risk for polio
- Have previously completed the full, routine polio vaccine series
- Have not already received an adult booster dose

High Risk Adults

Three groups of adults are at higher risk and should consider polio vaccination in the following situations:

- You are traveling to a country where the risk of getting polio is greater.
- You are working in a laboratory and handling specimens that might contain polioviruses.
- You are a healthcare worker treating patients who could have polio or have close contact with a person who could be infected with poliovirus.

Adults in these three groups who have never been vaccinated against polio should get 3 doses of IPV:

- The first dose at any time,
- The second dose 1 to 2 months later,
- The third dose 6-12 months after the second

*The World Health Organization (WHO) [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) is extremely concerned about the unfolding effects of the current crisis in Ukraine. Ukraine is currently affected by a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak, with the most recent case detected in January 2022 (with disease onset in December 2021).

A national supplemental polio immunization campaign targeting nearly 140,000 children throughout Ukraine who had not been vaccinated against polio began on February 1, 2022, but is currently paused, as health authorities have shifted focus towards emergency services. Surveillance to detect and report new cases of polio is also disrupted, increasing the risk of undetected spread of the disease among vulnerable populations.

At the same time, large-scale population movements are occurring, and Ukrainian refugees are fleeing to neighboring countries, such as Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Moldova. This massive and disorganized relocation disrupts access to hygiene and healthcare services which contribute greatly to the emergence and/or spread of infectious diseases, such as polio.

Additional Information:

- [Polio Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/>
- [Poliomyelitis in *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* — *The Pink Book*](#)
- [2020 Yellow Book Home | Travelers' Health | CDC](#)