

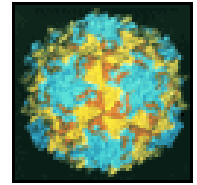


Issue 2

# Polio Update

Newsletter of the Australian National Poliovirus Reference Laboratory

Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory  
10 Wreckyn St Nth Melbourne 3051, Victoria



December 2006

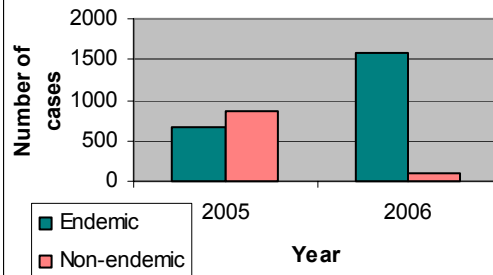
Tel: (03) 9342 2607; Fax: (03) 9342 2665; email: [polio@mh.org.au](mailto:polio@mh.org.au)

## Wild poliovirus isolation from a Nigerian child with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) seeking medical care in Singapore

- On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006, wild poliovirus was isolated by the Singapore National Polio Reference Laboratory from a Nigerian child seeking medical care in Singapore.
- The Singaporean government took steps to avert a public health threat.
- No additional cases were detected and Singapore continues to maintain its polio-free status.
- Singapore has a sensitive AFP surveillance system and vaccination coverage for polio is 95%
- The last case of polio in Singapore was in 1986.
- This case highlights the risk wild poliovirus poses to all countries.

<http://www.who.int/wer/2006/wer8129/er/index.html>

## Number of global polio cases in endemic and non-endemic countries in 2006 compared to the same time period in 2005. (at 22 Nov 2006)



- Both India and Nigeria have seen a sharp increase in cases during 2006 accounting for 89% of cases.
- In 2006 the number of countries with an importation of wild poliovirus fell from 16 in 2005 to 9.

## Wild polio importation into Kenya

- In September 2006, wild poliovirus type 1 was isolated from a 3 year old child who resided in a Somali refugee camp in the North Eastern Province, Kenya.
- The child has lived in the camp since birth and has no history of travel to Somalia.
- Genetic sequencing indicates the virus is of Nigerian origin, imported from Kismayo, Somalia.
- It is unclear how the infection was acquired and it is not possible to determine how long the virus has been circulating in Kenya.
- The last case of polio in Kenya occurred in 1993.
- This case of imported polio once again highlights the need to maintain surveillance for cases of polio throughout the world

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006\\_10\\_19/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_10_19/en/index.html)

**Any poliovirus isolated should be forwarded to the NPRL for sequencing to determine its origin, or if you have any untyped enteroviruses, the NPRL would be happy to type them to exclude poliovirus.**

## Australia's AFP surveillance 2006 (end Nov)

(WHO notification target: 40 cases per year in Australia)

60 notifications

11 duplicate notifications

7 cases were errors in notification

**42 cases were eligible notifications**

(eligible notification = Australian resident <15 years of age at onset of paralysis).

Number of eligible AFP cases per Australian state.

21 NSW

10 Victoria

10 Queensland

1 South Australia

## Recent publications

Dr Bruce Thorley gives a timely reminder that Australia needs to continue it's commitment to the WHO polio eradication program, in a letter to the editor of the Medical Journal of Australia. "Vigilance is required for Australia to remain polio free".

[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/184\\_09\\_010506/letters\\_010506\\_fm-3.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/184_09_010506/letters_010506_fm-3.html)

In the Spring edition of CDI, Dr David Durrheim, challenges Australia's AFP surveillance with a provoking article " Re-emerging poliomyelitis - is Australia's surveillance adequate?"

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3003-pdf-cnt.htm/\\$FILE/cdi3003a.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3003-pdf-cnt.htm/$FILE/cdi3003a.pdf)

The 2005 report of the national polio reference laboratory was published in the spring edition of CDI.

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3003-pdf-cnt.htm/\\$FILE/cdi3003e.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3003-pdf-cnt.htm/$FILE/cdi3003e.pdf)

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email unsubscribe to [polio@mh.org.au](mailto:polio@mh.org.au)

**Web links** WHO: <<http://www.polioeradication.org/>>; VIDRL: <<http://www.vidrl.org.au/>>