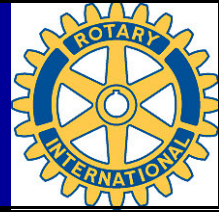


# LEARN MORE ABOUT POLIO



## WHAT IS IT?

Polio is a virus that attacks the central nervous system.

## What does it do?

Most people infected with polio show no symptoms (although these people are still contagious). Mild symptoms include fever, headache, and nausea. More severe cases cause muscle weakness and paralysis. Polio can be fatal if the muscles that control breathing are paralyzed.

## How is it spread?

The virus is shed in the saliva and feces of people infected with the disease. Part of the problem, however, is that people with polio are contagious before they would even show symptoms, so they don't know to quarantine themselves from others even though they can spread the infection.

## BUT POLIO IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM, RIGHT?

*Wrong!* While numbers of new polio cases around the globe have dropped by over 99% since the peak of the 1950s, polio has not yet been eradicated.

## By the numbers...

**4**

Countries with endemic polio virus: India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan

**627**

Number of new polio cases worldwide in 2011

**20 million**

Estimated number of polio survivors around the world

# POLIO FACTS CONTINUED

## IS THERE A VACCINE?

The development of the vaccine in the 1950s was a Nobel Prize-winning achievement. Vaccines are still used today as the primary method of polio prevention. One dose of the vaccine costs as little as 60 cents to give.

## Can a disease really be eradicated?

Yes! Smallpox was eradicated in 1980, and rinderpest (a disease of cattle and other animals) was eradicated in 2011. Polio will likely be the third disease on this list.

## HOW IS ROTARY INVOLVED?



Rotary International has been a major participant in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988. Over that time, hundreds of millions of dollars have been raised, including \$200 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Countless hours have been volunteered to provide vaccination efforts around the world. Since 1988, the number of polio-endemic countries has decreased from 125 to 4. Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign is helping in the final push to eradicate polio.

## *Progress...*

India, a polio-endemic country, had one year of no new polio cases as of January 2012.

**For more information and ways to help...**

Rotary International:  
[www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio)  
Global Polio Eradication Initiative  
[www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org)  
Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club:  
[sites.google.com/sites/woodlandsunriserotary](http://sites.google.com/sites/woodlandsunriserotary)

