

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance  
And  
Epidemiology  
Branch

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Dear Doctor,

### Updated situation of polio outbreak in Indonesia

We would like to update you the recent development of the polio outbreak in Indonesia. After identification of the first case in Sukabumi District and subsequent cases in the neighbouring areas in May 2005, two rounds of mop-up immunization campaigns targeting 6.4 million children aged less than five years had been conducted in West Java, Banten and Jakarta Provinces at end of May and June respectively. However, some cases occurred in the Central Java and Island of Sumatra, outside the mop-up campaign area, since 22 and 30 June. An immediate outbreak response immunization targeting 78,000 children aged less than five years was held from 26 June around the case in Central Java. Next phase of large-scale immunization campaigns in Central Java and Sumatra will start from August. As of 6 July, 2005, the case-toll accumulated to 111. According to WHO, the outbreak may continue to spread in the immediate area of the case and outside. Circulation of wild poliovirus could theoretically be occurring in other provinces in Indonesia.

As of June 2005, six countries were still polio-endemic: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt; with a further six where polio transmission is re-established: Sudan, Mali, Chad, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire.



In Hong Kong, high polio vaccination coverage is maintained among local children, which effectively prevents the spread of polio in the community. The last case of wild polio in Hong Kong was in 1983 and the WHO Western Pacific Region (including Hong Kong) has been certified polio-free since 2000. The National Committee for the Certification of Wild Poliovirus Eradication (NCC), Hong Kong,

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China, oversees the certification process and AFP surveillance system, which is sensitive in detecting, reporting and investigating all cases of AFP in conformance with WHO standards.

To safeguard Hong Kong's polio-free status, please be reminded to provide up-to-date immunization to eligible persons. For infants travelling to Indonesia, completion of the primary series of polio vaccination is recommended prior to departure. For travellers who are previously immunized, ten-yearly boosters are desirable.

The case definition for AFP surveillance is "any child aged under 15 with acute onset of flaccid paralysis in one or more limbs or bulbar paralysis". Please be reminded to report any cases of AFP (especially those with compatible travel history) to our Central Notification Office (CENO) through phone (2477 2722) or fax (2477 2770) during office hours or CENO On-line (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>).

Yours sincerely,



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