

14 Aug 2019

Benin: updated recommendations for polio vaccination

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) has been confirmed

On the 8 August 2019, cVDPV2 was reported in a boy with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in Kalalé district eastern Benin, Borgou province, bordering Nigeria [1]. This case is linked to an outbreak originating in Jigawa state, Nigeria.

There is suboptimal vaccination coverage in Benin [2] and with cross border population movements with Nigeria and other west Africa countries, Benin is considered at high risk for further transmission of cVDPV2 [1].

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV), like wild poliovirus (WPV), has the potential to cause paralysis in unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals. CVDPVs can arise in populations who are inadequately vaccinated and where sanitation and personal hygiene is poor [3].

[TravelHealthPro Country Information polio vaccination recommendation for Benin](#) has been updated to reflect this recent report.

Advice for travellers

CVDPV can be transmitted via the faecal-oral route, through exposure to water contaminated by infected human faeces, or by direct person to person contact. You are advised to practise strict food, water and personal hygiene.

Independent of your travel destination, you should be up to date with routine vaccination courses and boosters as [recommended in the UK](#).

If you are travelling to Benin, you should make sure you have completed a full course of a polio-containing vaccine. Vaccines used in the UK will provide protection against all types of polio virus. If your last dose of polio vaccine was given 10 or more years ago, you should have a booster dose before travel to Benin.

Children who are travelling should be up to date with an age appropriate course of polio vaccine.

For specific outbreak information, check our [Outbreak Surveillance](#) section.

The polio status of countries is reviewed by World Health Organization (WHO) on a regular basis and polio vaccination recommendations are subject to change. For individual country specific advice, check our [Country Information pages](#).

Further details on the global polio situation are available from the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#).

Resources

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\): vaccine derived poliovirus](#)
- [World Health Organization: Polio](#)

- [Poliomyelitis factsheet](#)

References

1. [World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa. Weekly Bulletin on outbreaks and other emergencies. Week 32:05-11 August \[Accessed 14 August 2019\]](#)
2. [World Health Organization vaccine preventable diseases: monitoring system 2019 global summary: Benin \[Accessed 14 August 2019\]](#)
3. [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\). Vaccine derived polioviruses \[Accessed 14 August 2019\]](#)