

Polio

Frequently Asked Questions

What is polio?

Polio is a disease caused by a virus. It can cause paralysis (unable to move parts of the body). In severe cases, it can cause death. There is no cure for polio, but it can be prevented with vaccination.

What are the signs of polio?

Most people who get sick with polio do not show any signs. About 1 in 4 people will have flu-like symptoms. In serious cases, it can cause an infection in the coverings of the brain or spine, or paralysis (unable to move parts of the body). In severe cases, polio can spread to parts of the body that help with breathing. This can lead to death.

The disease does not go away after a person gets better. They may have muscle pain, weakness or loss of movement later in life. This is called post-polio syndrome.

How is it spread?

Polio spreads from person to person. It enters the body through the mouth. You can get polio by coming into contact with a sick person's feces (poop) or droplets from a sick person coughing and sneezing. A person sick with polio can spread it to others before they start to show signs.

Who gets polio?

Anyone who has not received the polio vaccine is at risk of getting polio. People who travel to countries where polio still exists are also at risk. This includes infants who have not had their vaccines.

What can I do?

There is no cure for polio, but it can be prevented with the polio vaccine. It is safe and effective. The vaccine is given to children at ages:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6-18 months
- 4-6 years

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What if my child was vaccinated in another country?

Check your records to make sure their vaccines meets United States (U.S.) recommendations. You will need paperwork with the date and type of vaccine to prove that your child is up to date on vaccinations. Other countries use different vaccines than the IPV and they may not meet U.S. requirements. Some use the bivalent oral vaccine (bOPV) and trivalent oral vaccine (tOPV). The bOPV is not accepted in the U.S. If your child got this vaccine series, they will need to get the IPV vaccine series. The tOPV is ok in the U.S. if they got them in another country.

I plan to travel with my child, can I get their shots?

Children are more at risk of getting polio when traveling to other countries. Make sure your child is up to date on vaccines before traveling. Ask your child's doctor if a faster vaccine schedule is right for them.



For more
information, visit
the sdiz.org
website.

