

9th RCC Meeting

Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas



Mexico City, Mexico. 14-16 February 2018

The Regional Certification Commission (RCC) for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas met for the 9th time on 14-16 February 2018. RCC members in attendance at this meeting were Dr. Arlene King, RCC Chair; Dr. Jose Luis Díaz-Ortega; Dr. José Félix Sánchez Largaespada; Dr. Mark Pallansch; and Dr. Eliseu Waldman. Two RCC members were not present, Dr. Rosa Alba Salas and Dr. Angela Gentile.

In attendance, representing the secretariat, were Dr. Cuauhtémoc Ruiz, Chief of Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit (FPL/IM); Dr. Ana Elena Chévez, Regional Advisor, FPL/IM; Dr. Gloria Rey, Regional VPD Laboratory Advisor, FPL/IM; Andrea Villalobos, Immunization Consultant, FPL/IM; Daniela Dietz Chavez, Immunization Consultant, FPL/IM.

The objectives of this meeting were to review new challenges in containment and the updated containment reports from Panama and Mexico; the annual country report template, the national harmonization of risk assessments and the polio eradication status in Mexico.

On Friday, 16 February, a joint meeting was held between the RCC members and Dr. José Narro Robles, Secretary of Health of Mexico and his technical team. During the opening remarks of the meeting, Dr. Narro expressed that the eradication of polio is one of the top priorities for the Government of Mexico. He thanked the presence of the RCC as well as the support of PAHO/WHO, highlighting that Organization is an ally for the health of the Mexican population. During this meeting the RCC and Mexican authorities discussed the following topics: Switch report, containment report, risk assessment, outbreak response plan, and risk mitigation plan.

After the meeting, the RCC will send two separate letters to the NCC of Mexico, with copy to the Ministry of Health and the National Poliovirus Containment Coordinator (NPCC), one regarding recommendations on the containment report, and the other about the requirements and recommendations for the Global Polio Eradication end Endgame Strategic Plan (the Endgame).

This report presents the main conclusions and recommendations of the RCC for:

1. Containment
2. Annual Report
3. Risk Assessment
4. Mexico Specific Recommendations

1. Containment Agreements and Recommendations

- a. RCC reviewed updated containment reports from Mexico and Panama, and will send a letter to the NCC of these countries with detailed observations and recommendations.
- b. The RCC discussed the need to request from the countries with dPEF, a letter where the Ministry of Health states their support and declares the understanding of the commitments and implications for the country to have a dPEF in its territory to store IM or PIM materials of poliovirus.
- c. The RCC will also need to see a letter of commitment from the highest authority of the institutions that will keep PIM of Sabin, where the director or the person in charge of the institution states their knowledge that PIM material are being stored, the implications to retain it, and ensures that this material will never be used for polio virus recovery process
- d. It is important that countries reviews the reports of the first and second meetings of the Containment Advisory Group (CAG) and implement the recommendations that are relevant. To date, the publication of the *Guidance for non-poliovirus facilities to minimize risk of sample collections potentially infectious for polioviruses* is pending, as soon as it is published, PAHO (FPL / IM) should share this document with countries, NCCs, and the RCC.
- e. Countries that have not finalized phase 1 containment activities should do so as soon as possible and submit an updated report to the NCC and RCC, no later than August 2018.
- f. PAHO should again convey clear information to countries about what is required from PEFs. Communicate clearly to the Ministry of Health the implications, commitments, and responsibilities if the country decides to designate a PEF.
- g. Countries that are planning to have PEFs should nominate a National Authority on Containment (NAC) as soon as possible, and no later than December 2018.
- h. PAHO will prepare and provide a proposal for consolidation of PV1 and PV3 declared in containment reports for the next RCC.

Status of poliovirus containment in the Region of the Americas until 9th RCC

Report	9 th RCC Assessment Survey completion				9 th RCC Assessment Validation by type of material			
	WPV2/VDPV2		OPV2/Sabin2		WPV2/VDPV2		OPV2/Sabin2	
	IM*	PIM**	IM*	PIM**	IM*	PIM**	IM*	PIM**
Argentina	No	No	No	No				
Bolivia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Brazil	No	No	No	No				
Canada	Yes	Yes	No	No				
Caribbean	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Chile	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Colombia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	No				
Cuba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Dom. Rep	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Ecuador	Yes	Yes	No	No				
El Salvador	Yes	Yes	No	No				
Guatemala	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Haiti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Honduras	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Mexico	No	No	No	No				
Nicaragua	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Panama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Paraguay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Peru	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
United States	No	No	No	No				
Uruguay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Venezuela	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

2. Annual Report – Agreements and Recommendations

- a. The RCC reviewed the proposed template for the annual report and provided minor technical editions. Once the annual report is finalized, PAHO should share template with countries and NCCs, on behalf of the RCC.
- b. PAHO will provide a country profile surveillance and coverage information that will help countries complete their annual report.
- c. Countries must submit their annual report, validated by the NCC, and submit reports to the RCC, through PAHO, by 31 August 2018.
- d. All NCC members need to critically analyze the information presented in the annual report, and sign the NCC validation form, by 31 August 2018.
- e. Regarding the Sub-Region of the Caribbean, the Secretariat will consult with the PAHO country office, and decide if it is necessary for each country to submit an individual report, or if they will only submit one Sub-Regional report.

3. High risk analysis – Agreements and Recommendations

- a. RCC approved the regional risk assessment methodology.
- b. The three highest risk countries from the risk assessment were: Guatemala, Haiti, and Venezuela.
- c. PAHO should provide close technical support to the high-risk countries.
- d. RCC members should visit the high-risk countries, with a member of the PAHO Secretariat. PAHO will organize these visits.

Country	Assigned RCC member
Guatemala	Eliseu Waldman
Haiti	Arlene King
Venezuela	Angela Gentile or
	JL Diaz Ortega

3.1 All countries, including United States and Canada, should conduct sub-national risk assessments, and develop targeted risk mitigation strategies.

4. NCC Responsibilities and Capacity Strengthening

- a. All NCC members should be skilled on the roles and responsibilities of the NCC.
- b. RCC members when conducting country visits should meet with NCCs to conduct capacity building.