

Final Report

Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas (RCC)



29 – 31 March 2016

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

RCC Members

Dr. Arlene King (*RCC President*)

Adjunct Professor

Dalla School of Public Health University of Toronto, and Public Health Consultant

Dr. Mark A Pallansch, PhD

Director, Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
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Mr. Henry Smith

Chairman, Caribbean Sub Regional Commission for the Elimination of Measles, Rubella, and
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Dr. Angela Gentile

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Dr. Jose Luis Díaz-Ortega

Research in Medical Sciences, Research Center for Infectious Disease (CISEI), National Institute of
Public Health, Mexico

Dr. Eliseu Waldman

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, São Paulo University

***Unable to attend**

Invited Guests

Dr. Nicoletta Previsani, WHO

Dr. Concepcion Estivariz, CDC

PAHO Secretariat

Dr. Gloria Rey, PAHO

Dr. Cristina Pedreira, PAHO

Ms. Andrea Villalobos, PAHO

Ms. Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO

Acronyms

GAPIII	Global Action Plan, third edition
GAPIII-Regional	Regional Plan for Containment of Poliovirus in the Americas
GCC	Global Commission for the Certification of the Eradication of Poliomyelitis
IPV	Inactivated polio vaccine
NAC	National Authority for Containment
NCC	National Certification Committee
NPCC	National Polio Containment Coordinator
OPV	Oral polio vaccine
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RCC	Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas
Sabin	Attenuated poliovirus strains (approved for use in oral polio vaccines)
VDPV	Vaccine-derived poliovirus
WHO	World Health Organization
WPV	Wild poliovirus

Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas (RCC)

The Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas (RCC) was held from 29 to 31 March 2016 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with attendance of National Polio Containment Coordinators (NPCC) of Argentina (virtual), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, and the USA, the Deputy Chair of the Caribbean Sub-regional Certification Committee, PAHO Secretariat, and the WHO Polio Containment Coordinator.

The main objectives of this meeting were to review the country reports on the containment of wild polio virus (WPV) and present questions and recommendations from RCC members to National Poliovirus Containment Coordinators (NPCC) from countries that reported WPV/VDPV materials.

PAHO countries had prepared reports on advances in poliovirus containment following standardized methodology.

At this meeting, the RCC and PAHO Secretariat had received reports from 16 countries and the Caribbean sub-region (include 13 countries, 6 UK territories, and 3 associate members). The reports were submitted between 1 January and 28 March 2016, and they were reviewed by the RCC members and the PAHO Secretariat. Six country reports were pending: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The RCC received presentations from 8 countries that had reported WPV infectious or potentially infectious materials from Phase I of GAP II by March 2010. At that time, 224 facilities had WPV infectious or potentially infectious materials in those 8 countries as of March 2010.

During the meeting, the content of the country reports and presentations were analyzed and discussed. This was done using a structured format with comments from a primary and secondary RCC member reviewer, comments from other RCC members, and PAHO. Opportunities for comments from other attendees were also provided.

Main Observations

A. Strengths

1. All countries providing reports demonstrated commitment to containment.
2. All countries providing reports have progressed significantly with Phase I of containment activities.
3. Surveys received to date have identified most facilities holding WPV/VDPV infectious and potentially infectious materials.
 - a. Most countries not only identified the existence of these materials, but also mentioned the plan for their disposition.
 - b. Additionally some countries have destroyed WPV/VDPV infectious and potentially infectious materials.
4. Most countries have started the process of identifying Sabin 2 infectious and potentially infectious materials.
5. Some countries have started Phase II activities such as identification of poliovirus- essential facilities.
6. Some countries provided very good examples of best practices, such as:
 - Strong political ownership
 - Multi-sectorial engagement
 - Technical commitment and leadership
 - Collaboration with and active involvement of NCC in review, analysis, and submission of reports.

B. Challenges

1. Reports from some countries did not include adequate documentation that all WPV and VDPV materials have been identified, and further follow-up will be required.
2. Most countries have incomplete documentation about the presence and location of Sabin type 2 infectious and potentially infectious materials. This information will be finalized for the next report to be submitted to the RCC by 31 August 31 2016.
3. Several reports suggest confusion in classification of Sabin 2 versus VDPV potentially infectious materials.
4. Some countries have an insufficient legal framework to enable identification and enforcement of containment of infectious or potentially infectious materials, which may cause delays or even risk achieving containment in the Region.

C. Agreements and action points

1. All countries will receive a letter from the RCC Chair addressed to the NCC Chair with a copy to the NPCC, PAHO RCC Secretariat, and RCC members, providing comments and recommendations on the country report. The letter will also include a deadline for the receipt of the revised report.
2. All countries will additionally receive an email from the RCC Chair to the NPCC inviting them to link with the two RCC members that reviewed their reports, and to help the NPCC follow up on questions and recommendations from the RCC. This email will be copied to the two RCC reviewers, the NCC chair, and the PAHO Secretariat.
3. A brief summary of the status of country reports on containment of WPV/VDPV type 2 will be shared with WHO Headquarters after review by RCC members at the end of the meeting.
4. PAHO Secretariat will create a separate dashboard for containment to facilitate monitoring of progress.
5. Pending country reports need to be submitted as soon as possible, or before 20 May 2016.

Regional Polio Meeting
Revision of country reports on WPV Containment
Place: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
29-31 March 2016

Meeting objectives:

1. Regional Certification Commission (RCC) will review the country reports on the containment of wild polio virus (WPV).
2. The RCC will present questions and recommendations to National Poliovirus Containment Coordinators (NPCC) of countries that reported WPV/VDPV material.

Day 1. Tuesday, 29 March 2016		
08:30-09:00	Registration	Participants
09:00-09:30	Opening words	Arlene King, RCC Cauhtémoc Ruiz, PAHO
9:30-10:00	Advances on the Regional Containment Plan for Wild Poliovirus	G. Rey, PAHO
10:00-10:30	Questions and Comments	
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	
11:00-11:30	Dashboard update on Containment	Liz Thrush, PAHO
11:30-12:00	Questions and Comments	
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – USA	USA
14:00-14:30	Questions and Comments	
14:30-15:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Brazil	Brazil
15:00-15:30	Questions and Comments	
15:30-16:00	Coffee / Tea	
16:00-17:00	Brief summary and discussion on the revision of the National Containment Reports for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bolivia - Costa Rica - Cuba - Dominican Republic 	RCC Members
17:00-17:30	Questions and Comments	
17:30	End of Day	

Day 2. Wednesday, 30 March 2016		
08:30-09:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Chile	Chile
09:00-09:30	Questions and Comments	
9:30-10:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Guatemala	Guatemala
10:00-10:30	Questions and Comments	
10:30-11:00	Coffee / Tea	
11:00-11:30	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Mexico	Mexico
11:30-12:00	Questions and Comments	
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Argentina	Argentina
14:00-14:30	Questions and Comments	
14:30-15:00	WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Caribbean	CARPHA
15:00-15:30	Questions and Comments	
15:30-16:00	Coffee / Tea	
16:00-17:00	Brief summary and discussion on the revision of the National Containment Reports for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecuador - Haiti - Honduras - Nicaragua 	RCC Members
17:00-17:30	Questions and Comments	
17:30	End of Day	

Day 3. Thursday, 31 March 2016		
08:30-09:00	National WPV/VDPV Containment Report – Canada	Canada
09:00-09:30	Questions and Comments	
9:30-10:15	Brief summary and discussion on the revision of the National Containment Reports for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colombia - El Salvador - Panamá 	RCC Members
10:15-10:40	Questions and Comments	
10:40-11:00	Coffee / Tea	
11:00-12:00	Brief summary and discussion on the revision of the National Containment Reports for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paraguay - Peru - Uruguay - Venezuela 	RCC Members
12:00-12:30	Questions and Comments	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Agreements and Final Recommendations	
15:30	Meeting closure	

Day 3. Thursday, 31 March 2016 – Closed Meeting for RCC Members		
Objective: The RCC will discuss the work plan for 2016 and make any necessary revisions.		
15:30-17:00	Meeting Debrief and 2016 Work plan and Next Steps	RCC Members PAHO

List of Participants
Regional Polio Meeting: Revision of Country Reports
on WPV / VDPV Containment
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 29 to 31 March 2016

	Name	Represents	Country	E-mail
1	Arlene King	Chair RCC	Canada	arlenesking@yahoo.ca
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5	Henry Smith	RCC Member	Belize	henrysmithsr@yahoo.com
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