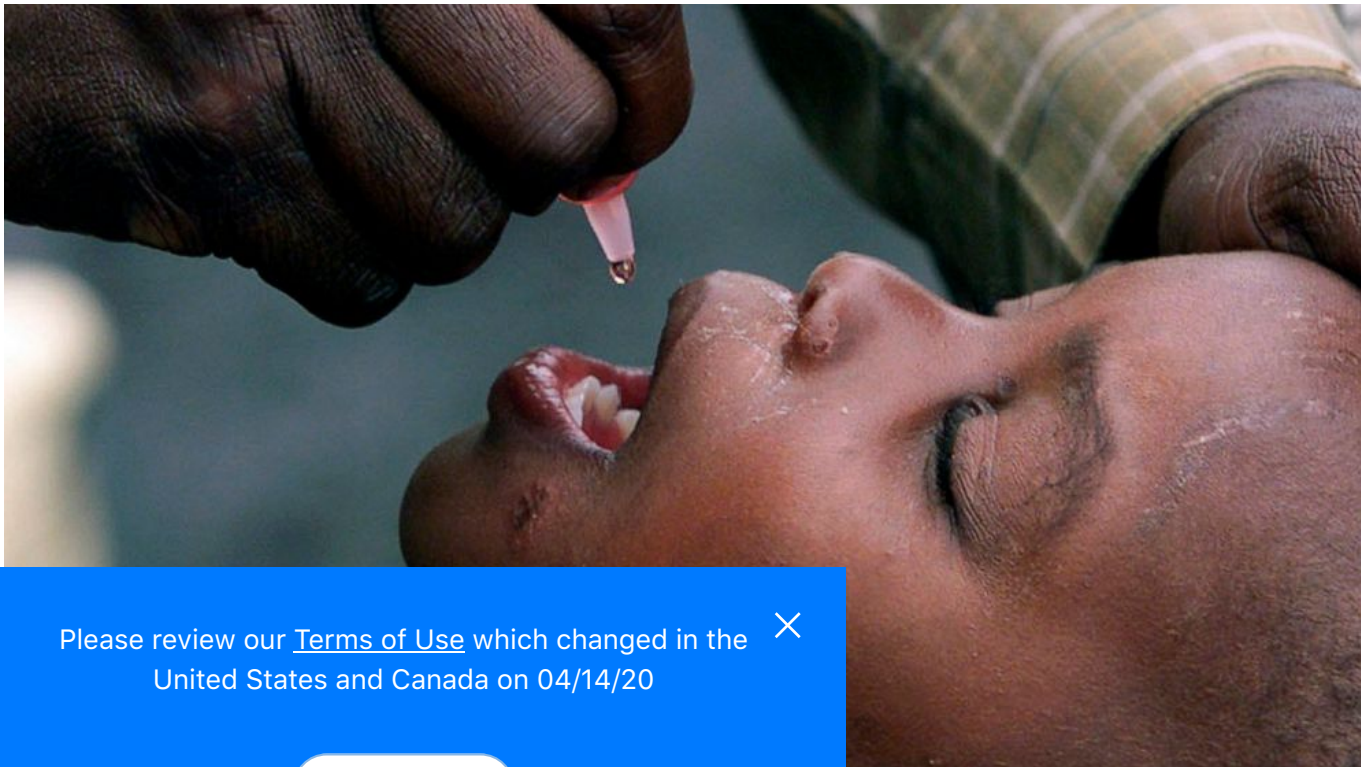


More polio cases now caused by vaccine than by wild virus

More polio cases now caused by vaccine than by wild virus as 4 African countries report them

By **The Associated Press**

November 25, 2019, 11:19 AM • 3 min read



Please review our [Terms of Use](#) which changed in the United States and Canada on 04/14/20 ✕

[Learn More](#)

...s given a polio vaccination at a relief ...19, the World Health Organization ...polio linked to the oral vaccine, than

cases of polio contracted in the wild. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo, File)

The Associated Press

LONDON -- Four African countries have reported new cases of polio linked to the oral vaccine, as global health numbers show there are now more

children being paralyzed by viruses originating in vaccines than in the wild.

In a report late last week, the World Health Organization and partners noted nine new polio cases caused by the vaccine in Nigeria, Congo, Central African Republic and Angola. Seven countries elsewhere in Africa have similar outbreaks and cases have been reported in Asia. Of the two countries where polio remains endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, vaccine-linked cases have been identified in Pakistan.

In rare cases, the live virus in oral polio vaccine can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks. All the current vaccine-derived polio cases have been sparked by a Type 2 virus contained in the vaccine. Type 2 wild virus was eliminated years ago.

Polio is a highly infectious disease that spreads in contaminated water or food and usually strikes children under 5. About one in 200 infections results in paralysis. Among those, a small percentage die when their breathing muscles are crippled.

Donors last week pledged \$2.6 billion to combat polio as part of an

eradication initiative that began in 1988 and hoped to wipe out polio by 2000. Since then, numerous such deadlines have been missed.

To eradicate polio, more than 95% of a population needs to be immunized. WHO and partners have long relied on oral polio vaccines because they are cheap and can be easily administered, requiring only two drops per dose. Western countries use a more expensive injectable polio vaccine that contains an inactivated virus incapable of causing polio.

The Independent Monitoring Board, a group set up by WHO to assess polio eradication, warned in a report this month that vaccine-derived polio virus is “spreading uncontrolled in West Africa, bursting geographical boundaries and raising fundamental questions and challenges for the whole eradication process.”

The group said officials were already “failing badly” to meet a recently approved polio goal of stopping all vaccine-derived outbreaks within 120 days of detection. It described the initial attitude of WHO and its partners to stopping such vaccine-linked polio cases as “relaxed” and said “new thinking” on how to tackle the problem was needed.

———

This story has been corrected to show that of the two polio-endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, only Pakistan has reported vaccine-derived polio cases.



 Comments (15)



Before You Go

Taboola Feed

OshenWatch | Sponsored

Why Is Everybody Snapping Up This New \$49 Smartwatch?

Anti-Smog Activated Carbon Mask Pm2.5 Dust Masks 5 Layers Filter Reusable Towel | Sponsored
(Buy 4 Free Shipping) For Excellent Breathability & Extra Comfort

Download on the App Store | Neverland Casino | Sponsored

Magnolia Woman Was Playing on This Free Slot Machine App, When All Of A Sudden She Won Big

'Murder Hornets,' with sting that can kill, land in US

Savvy Finance - Debt Relief Quotes | Sponsored

People In Heavy Credit Card Debt are in for a Big Surprise

eSalon | Sponsored

Forget Traditional Hair Dye if You Color Grays. Do This Instead.

They seemed like picture-perfect high school sweethearts, but their toxic relationship ended in murder

Babbel | Sponsored

The app that's teaching millennials Spanish in 3 weeks

**ABC News Network | Privacy Policy | Your CA Privacy Rights | Children's Online Privacy Policy |
Interest-Based Ads | Terms of Use | Do Not Sell My Info | Contact Us**

Copyright © 2020 ABC News Internet Ventures. All rights reserved.