

Press-Ready Announcement of Nationwide Wild Poliovirus Survey October 2002: Who, When, What, Why (for announcements in newsletters or announcements to your members).

US National Survey and Timeline

The Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments of the Executive Branch, has announced a nationwide poliovirus survey of over 15,000 biomedical laboratories to begin in October 2002.

Tommy Thompson, the Secretary for Health and Human Services, declared in a letter to the Regional Director of the Pan American Health Organization that:

The United States is fully committed to the PAHO's Resolution CE126.R4 urging Member States "...to initiate activities related to the containment of any laboratory material that may harbor specimens of wild poliovirus."

The survey will alert laboratories to the impending eradication of polio, encourage the disposition of all unneeded wild poliovirus infectious and potentially infectious materials, and establish a national inventory of laboratories retaining such materials.

Laboratories on the inventory will be kept informed of polio eradication progress and notified when to implement incremental containment procedures.

An initial pilot survey was completed by several organizations to develop user friendly and time-efficient survey forms. An expanded pilot phase of over 500 laboratories is now underway.

Polio eradication is anticipated within the next few years. In the last 12 months, less than 600 cases were reported in 10 countries. Prevention of inadvertent transmission of polioviruses from the laboratory to the community is crucial. The first step toward laboratory containment is a national survey of all biomedical laboratories.

In conducting the survey, the United States joins 122 other polio-free countries that have initiated or completed similar surveys over the past two years in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Sources of information regarding the survey can be found on the National Vaccine Program Office web page, www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/polio, or contact Poliovirus Laboratory Containment at 1-800-221-0916.

US National Survey and Inventory Timeline

	2002							2003											
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Media packages provided to professional organizations to assist them in informing members of the national survey																			
Institutions/biomedical laboratories receive survey forms and materials																			
Institutions/biomedical laboratories submit completed survey																			
PLCP conducts onsite visits and follows up with non-responders																			
DHHS validates survey results and compiles national inventory*																			
The US reports to WHO that survey is completed																			

*Institutions/biomedical laboratories listed on the national inventory receive updates from DHHS on polio eradication and biosafety requirement