



## POLIOMYELITIS

### WHAT IS POLIOMYELITIS?

POLIOMYELITIS (POLIO) IS A DISEASE OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM CAUSED BY AN INFECTION WITH THE POLIOVIRUS. SINCE MOST PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IMMUNIZED TO PROTECT AGAINST POLIO, CASES OF THE ILLNESS ARE VERY RARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

### WHO GETS POLIO?

POLIO IS MORE COMMON IN INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN AND OCCURS WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE UNDER CLEAN CONDITIONS.

### HOW IS POLIO SPREAD?

POLIO IS SPREAD THROUGH THE FECES.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF POLIO?

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, TIREDNESS, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND VOMITING, MUSCLE PAIN AND STIFFNESS IN THE NECK AND BACK. THE PERSON CAN BECOME PARALYZED AND DEATH SOMETIMES OCCURS.

### HOW SOON AFTER INFECTION DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS APPEAR FROM THREE TO 5 DAYS AFTER INFECTION.

### WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG IS A PERSON ABLE TO SPREAD POLIO?

THOSE AFFECTED ARE ABLE TO SPREAD THE DISEASE AS LONG AS THE VIRUS IS PRESENT IN THE THROAT AND FECES.

### DOES PAST INFECTION WITH POLIO MAKE A PERSON IMMUNE?

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF POLIO VIRUS. LIFELONG IMMUNITY USUALLY DEPENDS ON WHICH TYPE OF VIRUS A PERSON GETS.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR POLIO?

THERE IS CURRENTLY NO CURE FOR POLIO. TREATMENT INVOLVES SUPPORTIVE CARE.

### WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH POLIO?

POLIO CAN PARALYZE PARTS OF THE BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR BREATHING AND SWALLOWING, AND CAN BE FATAL.

### IS THERE A VACCINE FOR POLIO?

YES. ADULTS TRAVELING TO COUNTRIES WHERE POLIO CASES ARE OCCURRING SHOULD CHECK THEIR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS.