

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Melissa Propp, RN at nurse@swhealth.ne.gov or call 308-345-4223

Polio Immunization Information

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department encourages all parents to have their children vaccinated for Polio (Poliomyelitis.) Polio is given as a four shot series. The first dose is given at 2 months of age, second dose at 4 months and a third dose between ages 6 to 18 months and a final dose prior to the start of kindergarten. If your child hasn't gotten or finished the Polio series, ask their doctor or nurse about getting the shot now.

According to WHO (World Health Organization): Polio is a highly infectious disease that can cause paralysis in a matter of hours. 1 in 200 infections leads to paralysis (usually in the legs) and 5% to 10% of persons paralyzed die when breathing muscles become immobilized. Polio mainly affects children under 5 years of age. There is NO CURE for polio but vaccine can prevent transmission.

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Poliomyelitis became an epidemic disease in the United States at the turn of the 20th century. Epidemics with more than 20,000 cases of poliomyelitis with permanent paralysis reported in 1952. Following the introduction of effective vaccines — inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) initially in 1955, then oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) starting in 1961— the reported incidence of poliomyelitis in the United States declined dramatically to <100 cases in 1965 and to <10 cases in 1973.

WHO reports Polio cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988 as a result of the global effort to eradicate the disease. More than 16 million people have been saved from paralysis and 1.5 million childhood deaths have been prevented. In 1994, the WHO region of the Americas was certified polio-free.

If you have questions about Polio or any immunization, call Melissa Propp, RN Public Health Nurse at (308) 345-4223.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter or view the website at www.swhealth.ne.gov. Call (308) 345-4223 or stop by the office at 404 West 10th Street in McCook.

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