

Poliomyelitis

Agent: Poliovirus

Mode of Transmission: Person-to-person through ingestion of contaminated food or direct contact with fecal material from infected people.

Signs/Symptoms: Ten percent of infections will develop into a non-specific syndrome with fever, malaise, headache, nausea, and vomiting. Flaccid paralysis occurs in 1% of poliovirus infections.

Prevention: Vaccination beginning at 2 months of age.

Other Important Information: Polio eradication programs have led to the elimination of the disease in the Western Hemisphere; however, at the beginning of 2008, four countries still had endemic polio: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

The last reported case of poliomyelitis in Virginia occurred in 1978.