**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.