

## **Poliovirus Infection, Including Poliomyelitis**

Agent: Poliovirus

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

Signs/Symptoms: Up to 90% of all polio infections are asymptomatic. Ten percent will develop into a non-specific syndrome with fever, malaise, headache, nausea, and vomiting. Flaccid paralysis occurs in < 1% of poliovirus infections.

Prevention: Vaccine should be administered beginning at 2 months of age.

Other Important Information: In 2011 Virginia's reporting requirements were changed to require reporting of any poliovirus infection, not only poliomyelitis. Polio eradication programs have led to the elimination of the disease in the Western Hemisphere. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were 716 cases of polio in 2011. The following three countries still had endemic polio: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan, with Pakistan reporting the most cases. Since January of 2011, no cases of polio were reported from India, a previously endemic country. Angola, Chad, and the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) were previously determined to be polio free, but imported cases of the poliovirus have re-established transmission in these countries.

No poliovirus infections were reported in 2011. The last reported case of poliomyelitis in Virginia occurred in 1978.