

**World Polio Day ~ October 24, 2020**  
**There is no cure, but polio is preventable with a vaccine.**



**Polio Fast Facts**



The first polio vaccine was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1955.

Polio has been around for thousands of years. Author, Sir Walter Scott, golfer Jack Nicklaus and filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola were all victims of Polio.

Polio is an intestinal virus that enters the environment through feces. It is spread via personal contact, exonerated by poor hygiene. The virus enters the body through the mouth and can survive up to two months outside of the body.

Fewer than one in 100 infected people get a paralytic form of the disease. If this occurs, the virus destroys motor neurons, the nerve cells that control muscles.

In NYC in 1916, 27,000 people were paralyzed and 9,000 were killed by the poliovirus. In 1952, 58,000 cases were reported in the US and 5,000 in Canada.

Ten million children in five countries were immunized by the end of 1956. By 1957, there were fewer than 6,000 cases of polio in the United States.

1979-1980's: Rotary undertakes a series of polio immunization campaigns.

The World Health Organization certified that the United States became Polio free in 1994 followed by the Western Pacific region in 2000 and Europe in 2002.

2002-03: Rotary Polio Eradication Campaign raised \$135 million. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation contributed \$1 million dollars.

2007: The Gates Foundation announced its first major grant for Polio eradication to Rotary International. It was a \$100 million dollar challenge to Rotary.

By 2008, Rotarians had contributed more than \$700 million dollars and countless hours to immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries.

2009: Bill Gates pledged an additional \$255 million dollars.



2012: Rotary raised \$228.7 million dollars.

Currently the Gates Foundation increased their pledge and increased up to \$450 million dependent upon Rotary's 2-to-1 match. Rotary in conjunction with the Gates foundation has contributed more than \$2 billion to fight polio.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only 2 countries in the world with active cases of Polio.

Help us make the world Polio free. If you wish to contribute make checks payable to LARCF, Inc. (Ludlow Area Rotary Charitable Fund, Inc.), PO Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149. Please visit our website at [www.ludlowrotary.com](http://www.ludlowrotary.com). You may contact us via email at [ludlowrotary@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowrotary@gmail.com) or visit [www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org) for more info.