



Week: 23rd – 29th May 2021

**Big Idea of the Week:
In the midst of coronavirus, Sierra Leone
still cares for its children**

Polio is a serious sickness that affects mostly young children. It can cause die foot or die hand and also lead to death. There is no cure for polio. It can be prevented only by polio vaccine.

Polio usually spreads silently in communities where children have been not received enough polio vaccine to be fully protected. Children should get multiple doses of polio vaccine. Every additional dose further strengthens a child's protection against the polio virus.

Some countries are now facing an out-of-control number of cases and deaths, even after months of reporting low numbers.

Polio vaccine is free, safe, and effective. Polio vaccine helps your child grow strong and healthy.

Sierra Leone is carrying out a national polio vaccination campaign that includes two rounds. All children under 5 years old should receive free polio vaccine in each round of the campaign.

The first round is 28-31 May 2021 and the second round is 2-5 July 2021. Vaccination teams will visit all houses to vaccinate children under 5 years against polio.

Prevent polio. Vaccinate your child.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- District Social Mobilization Coordinator
- Polio vaccination team member
- Health workers
- Community leaders
- Mammy Queens

Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions

- Why is it important to prevent polio in our children and communities?
- What role does each of us play in preventing polio in our children and communities?
- Polio used to be a much more common sickness all around the world. How have we gotten to the point where many countries no longer experience many widespread cases of polio?
- If someone is unsure or has questions about giving their child the polio vaccine, who can they talk to?

Additional messages

- Polio enters the body through the mouth, usually from hands that have come in contact with the toilet of a person with polio. Usually this is due to poor hand washing or by eating or drinking contaminated food or water and is aggravated by low vaccination coverage in the area.
- Those who have the polio virus can shed the virus in their toilet for several weeks and are likely to spread it to others due to poor hygiene and sanitation.
- Polio virus is silent. People with the virus can spread it to others, even if they don't show signs of sickness.
- Vaccines have saved millions of children worldwide and are the best way to protect children from dangerous diseases. As a result, polio has dramatically decreased globally.
- Before being licensed, vaccines undergo extensive testing and reviews to check that they are safe and work well.
- All vaccines provided at health facilities have been licensed and approved through the World Health Organization (WHO).
- All children under 5 years old should be vaccinated, even if they are sick.
- It is important that sick children are vaccinated because their bodies' defense levels are lower than other children and they need to be protected against the polio virus.
- To provide every child with a life-long protection from polio, every child should be vaccinated during every round of polio campaign.
- nOPV2 is an oral polio vaccine. It will be administered via two drops, given into the mouth of the child. This is the same as for other oral polio vaccines.
- nOPV2 is extremely safe and effective at protecting children against lifelong polio paralysis.
- nOPV2 has gone through regular and robust clinical trials and were guided by clear and established ethical guidelines. The trials have shown the vaccine is safe and effective in providing protection against polio and in controlling outbreaks.
- The number of doses a child needs to be fully protected against polio depends on the child's health and nutritional status. The more polio vaccine the child gets, the better he or she is protected.
- While there is still polio, every child will remain at risk and needs to receive the vaccine during each campaign round, as well as during routine vaccinations at hospitals.
- No child is safe if there is one child who is under-vaccinated. Every child must be vaccinated during every polio campaign because every missed child is a place for polio to hide and spread.