

Third Meeting of the American Regional Commission on Polio Containment

Panama City, Panama

9-10 October 2008

Introduction

The American Regional Commission for Certification of Poliovirus Laboratory Containment and Verification of Polio-free Status (AMR RCC) held their 3rd meeting in Panama City, Panama from 9-10 October 2008. The AMR RCC was established by the Director, PAHO/WHO in February 2004 to independently document that the requirements for wild poliovirus laboratory containment have been fulfilled and to verify that the polio-free status of the Region remains unchanged. The purpose of the present meeting was to review the quality of Phase I activities in the 31 member states of the Region that have submitted final reports to the RCC ("Group A countries").

The meeting was opened by Dr. Angel Valencia, Representative a. i. of PAHO/WHO in Panama followed by a telephone address by Dr. Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus, Project Coordinator of Immunization in PAHO. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. Cirilo Lawson, Director General of Health of Panama. The attachment lists the Presidents of National Coordinating Committees, country representatives, and staff members from WHO/Geneva and PAHO who attended. RCC members in attendance were Drs. Alexandre Existe, Walter R Dowdle, and Jesus Querales. Dr. Dowdle chaired the meeting in the absence of the President, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

Current status of Phase I in the Region During the Second Meeting of the AMR RCC, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 28-29 February 2008, the RCC classified the countries into two general groups (A and B) based on assessment of available information and perceived compliance with Phase I requirements. Group A countries, perceived as more advanced in compliance with Phase I, were requested to submit a final report no later than 31 July 2008 and its National Committees were requested to be prepared to present the final report to the RCC during the third quarter of 2008. The AMR RCC requested that Group B countries submit a final report no later than December 31, 2008. In follow up, a workshop for Group B Countries was conducted in Panama City, Panama, from 20-22 May 2008. At this Third Meeting, the AMR RCC reviewed the final Phase 1 written and oral reports from the Group A countries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to the present RCC meeting, a panel was convened consisting of Drs WR Dowdle (RCC member), M Landaverde (OPV/OMS), G. Lipskaya (WHO EURO), and Chris Wolff (WHO/Geneva) to review in detail all written reports and provide recommendations to the RCC. The following RCC conclusions and recommendations were drawn from the report of the panel and presentations made by each country.

The RCC congratulates the 31 countries of the American Region that submitted their national reports and presented findings at this 3rd meeting of the Commission. The Commission was particularly pleased with the overall high quality of the reports and presentations, consistency of formats, and the special attention given to survey accuracy among the institutions and laboratories that constitute the highest risk of possessing wild polioviruses or potential infectious materials. The quality of the reports reflected the degree of national cooperation and the investment of human and financial resources in completing the survey and inventory. Panama received special commends for its effort to conclude phase I after being classified as a group B country. Chile, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States (4/31 countries) reported having facilities with wild poliovirus infectious or potential infectious materials.

a) General recommendations:

1. PAHO/WHO should communicate to countries with unfinished reports in Group B the high quality of the reports and presentations from Group A countries and make available specific examples where appropriate.
2. Group A countries requested by the RCC to provide additional information or clarify specific items in the report should do so through PAHO/WHO by October 31, 2008.
3. Signed approval of respective National Certification Committees should be forwarded by national authorities of all countries to PAHO/WHO no later than December 31, 2008.

b) Specific recommendations:

The RCC reviewed the submissions from countries and grouped them in 3 categories: accept report, accept report with request for clarification or additional information, request re-submission of report

1. Accept report
 - Bolivia
 - Caribbean Sub-Region
 - Costa Rica
 - Dominica Republic

- Mexico
- Panama
- United States of America

2. Accept report, with request for clarification or additional information

- Chile: Clarify the number of low risk laboratories (page 18, paragraph 4) that were surveyed as a sample (update report with text from slide 13 of the presentation). Obtain responses from Universities that have not yet submitted the completed survey (page 23, table 4). Add a paragraph explaining the process of reviewing the non-responding laboratories and the evaluation of their risks.
- El Salvador: Include a calendar of events in the report.
- Honduras: Expand section I.B, page 5 to include important information on legislation presented during the meeting that was not included in the text of the report
- Nicaragua: Update the report to include information presented at the meeting.

3. Report to be submitted:

- Haiti: Data presented to the RCC by Haiti indicated that Phase 1 has been completed, but a formal written report needs to be submitted to PAHO/WHO.
- Canada: A representative was unable to attend the meeting. A final written report needs to be submitted.

Next steps:

The next and fourth meeting of the AMR RCC is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009. During that meeting the RCC will make a final decision on the reports submitted before December 31 by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. An ad-hoc panel will review in detail the reports and will provide recommendations to the AMR RCC before of the meeting.

The Pan American Health Organization, as a Secretariat will continue to provide support to those countries that have not yet presented their final reports.

List of Participants (draft) see annex.

TERCERA REUNION DE LA COMISION REGIONAL DE AMERICA PARA
LA CONTENCIÓN DEL POLIOVIRUS EN LOS LABORATORIOS

Paraná, del 9 al 10 de octubre de 2008

LISTADO DE PARTICIPANTES

NOMBRE	APELLIDO	TITULO/CARGO	PAIS	INSTITUCION	DIRECCION	TELEFONO	E-MAIL
1 JOSE MAURICIO	LANDAVERDE	ASESOR REGIONAL UN	WASHINGTON	PAHO	525 23RD ST. N.W. Washington	(202) 974-3277	landavem@paho.org
2 CARLOS	GODOY ARIEAGA	PRESIDENTE	HONDURAS	COMISION NACIONAL DE CONTENCION	CALLE SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS	225-0026/98927-5761 (809)686-7929 Ofc	lap.casiste@honduras.com
3 JUAN R	SANTONI	PROFESOR	REP. DOMINICANA	CENTRO DE REHABILITACION	MACORIS	(809) 689-7151 Centro	santonio@ccdelat.net.do
4 MARIA CONCEPCION	DE ORELLANA	ENFERMERA COL. TEC.	SAN SALVADOR	MINISTERIO DE SALUD PUBLICA Y A S	16-18 JAMAICA BLVD. 16-18 FEDERATION PARK, PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD W I	22975578 / 22975577	correlana9@yahoo.com
5 BERYL	IRONS	MEDICAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST	TRINIDAD, TOBAGO	CAREC / PAHO		(868) 622-3404 (868) 622-4162	ironsberr@carec.paho.org
6 ECAD	HASSAN	NEUROLOGO PEDIATRA PRESIDENTE COMITE NACIONAL	NICARAGUA	HOSPITAL INFANTIL LA MASCOTA INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE HIGIENE UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL	BARRIO ARIEL DARCE MANAGUA	(505) 267-0285 (505) 278-2561	hassan@cabernet.com.ni
7 JESUS	OUFRALES	PRESIDENTE	VENEZUELA	COMITE NACIONAL DE CONTENCION	AV 15 DE JULIO EDIF SAN PABLO PISO 10 OFIC 101	591-2-2359096 (506) 2255-1427	presidencia@mhtr.gov.ve
8 ADALID	ZAMORA	PRESIDENTE COORDINADORA NACIONAL	BOLIVIA	MINISTERIO DE SALUD	CALLE 16. AVE-6-8	(506) 83874666 (509) 37 01 62/73	adalid@gmail.mecgaliu.com
9 HILDA MARIA	SALAZAR BOLAÑOS	COORDINADORA NACIONAL DEL PALMNSA	COSTA RICA	MINISTERIO DE HEALTH/NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY	DELMAS 33 P. AUP. CALLE PROLONGACION CARPIO No. 470 COLONIA SANTO TOMAS	(509) 34 09 05 13	hass54@gmail.com
10 ALEXANDRE	EXISTE	DOCTOR	HAITI	INJURE	DELMA 33 P. AUP. CALLE PROLONGACION CARPIO No. 470 COLONIA SANTO TOMAS	(509) 34 09 05 13	alex.existe@yahoo.com
11 ANASTASIA	MAGANA H	JEFA DE LABORATORIO DE POLIOVIRUS	MEXICO D.F		DEL MIGUEL HIDALGO CALLE 17 EDIF ADMINISTRATIVA 4TO. PISO OFIC. 404	52 41 1432	anastasia_mh@yahoo.com.mx
12 ADELINA	MENDOZA	COORDINADORA NACIONAL	PANAMA	CAJA DE SEGURO SOCIAL	AV. CUBA Y CALLE 38 ANCON	503-3518-3519 (507) 207-8124	adelmendoza@css.org.pa
13 EVA	RIOS DE GONZALEZ	MIEMBRO COMISION	PANAMA	HOSPITAL NACIONAL	AV. CUBA Y CALLE 38 ANCON	(507) 512-9265	eje_lad@hospitalnacional.org
14 CIRILO	LAWSON	DIRECTOR GENERAL	PANAMA	MINISTERIO DE SALUD	ANCON EDIF. 265	(507) 212-4500	clawson@minsag.gob.pa
15 ROLANDO	RAMIREZ	CONSULTOR OPS/OMS	PANAMA	OPS/OMS - PANAMA	ANCON	(507) 512-9100 EXT 1081	rarnirez@pan.ops-oms.org
16 BLASINA	AGUIAR PINTO	JEFA NACIONAL DE LAB ENFERMERA	PANAMA	MINISTERIO DE SALUD	ANCON CALLE 3ª AVE CHILE	(507) 512-9610	blasinaaguier07@hotmail.com
17 DALYS	PINTO	ENFERMERA	PANAMA	MINISTERIO DE SALUD	ANCON	(507) 512-9610	daly.pinto@yahoo.com
18 JUAN MIGUEL	PASCALÉ	DIRECTOR GENOMICA	PANAMA	INSTITUTO CONMEMORATIVO GORGAS	AVE JUSTO AROS Y CALLES3	(507) 527-4821	jpascalle@gorgas.gob.pa
19 ITZEL	HEWITT (DE)	COORDINADORA GENERAL DEL PALMNSA	PANAMA	MINISTERIO DE SALUD	CALLE 8. AVE CHILE	(507) 512-9610	ishewitt@hotmail.com
20 JUDITH	MORA	JEFE SUB-DEPARTAMENTO VIROLOGIA	CHILE	INSTITUTO DE SALUD PUBLICA	MARATHON 1000 SANTIAGO 20 AVENIDA APPIA 1211 GENEVA	(562) 3507 412	mmora@spn.cl
21 CHRIS	WOLFE	SCIENTIST	SWITZERLAND	WHO	325 SWANTONWAY DECATUR GA 30328	41 22 791 45 24	wolfe@who.int
22 WAL TER	DOWDLE	SCIENTIST	USA	TASK FORCE FOR CHILD SURVIVAL	GA 30328	(404) 887 5608	wowdle@taskforce.org
23 GALINA	LIPSKAYA	CONTAINMENT COORDINATOR	COPENHAGEN DENMARK	WHO/EURO	GA 30328	45 3917 1496	galina.lipskaya@gmail.com
24						7 495 9395366	