

Global containment requirements for wild/vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (WPV3/VDPV3) and wild/vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (WPV1/VDPV1)

May 2024

At its 24th meeting in November 2023, the Global Commission for the Certification of Eradication of Poliomyelitis (GCC) – the independent body which sets the criteria for all aspects of certifying the world polio-free, including containment certification – resolved that the target for full containment certification of all facilities retaining wild and vaccine-derived polioviruses (all types – 1, 2 and 3) will remain end-2026, independent of the status of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) eradication. Facilities will be expected to be fully compliant with the requirements described in the WHO Global Action Plan for poliovirus containment (GAPIV)¹ and certified accordingly through the Containment Certification Scheme (CCS)².

Considering this, the GCC recommended that all wild/vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (WPV3/VDPV3) holding facilities apply for an Interim Certificate of Containment (ICC) immediately. These facilities are expected to achieve a Certificate of Containment (CC) or an ICC with a clear end-point for obtaining a CC agreed with the GCC by end-2026.

In addition, the GCC recommended that all facilities retaining wild/vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (WPV1/VDPV1) in all-but endemic countries³ apply for an Interim Certificate of Containment (ICC) immediately. These facilities will also need to achieve a Certificate of Containment (CC) or an ICC with a clear end-point for obtaining a CC agreed with the GCC by end-2026.

These recommendations are in line with previous GCC advice regarding poliovirus containment certification⁴ and relate to WHO Member State commitments made through a 2018 World Health Assembly resolution to accelerate poliovirus containment action⁵.

Following cessation of oral polio vaccine (OPV) use, containment measures for OPV/Sabin types 1 and 3 materials will be required.

Full recommendations from the November 2023 meeting can be found in the meeting report⁶.

¹ WHO Global Action Plan for Poliovirus Containment, 4th edition, 2022 (<https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WHO-Global-Action-Plan-for-Poliovirus-Containment-GAPIV.pdf>).

² WHO Poliovirus Containment Certification Scheme, 1st edition, 2017 (https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CCS_19022017-EN.pdf)

³ Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only remaining polio-endemic countries

⁴ GCC reports: <https://polioeradication.org/tools-and-library/policy-reports/certification-reports/global-certification-commission/>

⁵ World Health Assembly resolution on containment of polioviruses, 71st WHA, 2018 (https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/A71_R16-en.pdf)

⁶ Report from the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the GCC, Geneva, 22-23 November 2023 (<https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Twenty-fourth-Meeting-of-the-Global-Commission-for-Certification-of-Poliomyelitis-Eradication.pdf>)