

# **Key recommendations of the Global Commission for the Certification of Eradication of Poliomyelitis (GCC) concerning Poliovirus Containment**

April 2025

*This document highlights key GCC recommendations on poliovirus containment, applicable to poliovirus containment stakeholders at national, regional and global levels. It includes selected excerpts from GCC meeting reports. For full details, please refer to the complete GCC reports available on the [GPEI website](#).*

## **Poliovirus containment certification**

**Recommendations made: November 2023**

**Pertains to:**

- **containment certification timeline for WPV3/VDPV3**
- **containment certification timeline for WPV1/VDPV1**
- **containment certification (excluding in endemic countries) being independent of the status of WPV1 eradication**

**Note:** Type 2 poliovirus materials, with the exception of nOPV2 which benefits from a CAG waiver, are [already subject](#) to containment requirements.

*“4.1 Timelines to meet the containment requirements for the certification of WPV eradication by end-2026 will remain in-place independent of the status of WPV eradication.*

*4.2 WPV3/VDPV3 holding facilities must apply for an ICC immediately. These facilities are expected to achieve a Containment Certificate (CC) or an Interim Containment Certificate (ICC) with a clear end-point for obtaining a CC agreed with the CWG/GCC by end-2026.*

*4.3 Facilities retaining WPV1/VDPV1 in all countries, other than the endemic countries, must apply for an ICC immediately. These facilities are expected to achieve a Containment Certificate (CC) or an Interim Containment Certificate (ICC) with a clear end-point for obtaining a CC agreed with the CWG/GCC by end-2026.” (pp. 14-15)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the GCC, November 2023](#)

**Recommendation made: February 2018**

**Pertains to:**

- **certified containment being a prerequisite for the certification of eradication of WPV1**

*“4.1.1. Certification of WPV eradication should only occur when all WPV materials, in facilities designated for retaining them, are safely and securely contained\**

*\* All facilities retaining WPVs should have a Containment Certificate, or a time-limited Interim Containment Certificate, with a clear end point for obtaining a CC agreed with the GCC.” (p. 11)*

Full report: [Report from the Seventeenth Meeting of the GCC, February 2018](#)

## **Poliovirus surveys and inventories**

**Recommendations made: November 2024**

**Pertains to:**

- **surveying of novel poliovirus strains**
- **annual surveys**

*“1. GCC recommended that all novel poliovirus strains of all serotypes be included on country survey forms e.g., nOPV1 to 3, S19 etc.*

*...*

*3. GCC recommended that annual surveys should be conducted for facilities based on a prioritized list, rather than resurveying every facility annually, developed by the NPCC.” (p. 27)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the GCC, November 2024](#)

## Recommendations made: November 2023

### Pertains to:

- **criteria required for GCC to assess national survey and inventory completion, at time of certification of eradication of WPV1**
- **revision of indicators for a harmonized approach to assess national survey and inventory completion**

*“4.4 Noting the importance of considering poliovirus survey and inventory completion as a prerequisite to containment certification, GCC recommends that survey and inventory completion criteria be added to the current containment requirements for WPV eradication certification and requests that the WHO containment team collaborate with the containment regional focal points and the RCCs to develop the said criteria. These criteria should be shared with the GCC for approval.*

*4.5 To ensure a standardized and globally harmonized set of indicators to monitor the implementation of survey and inventory activities, GCC recommends a revision of the previously agreed qualitative and quantitative indicators be carried out by the containment team at WHO headquarters in collaboration with the containment regional focal points, RCCs and possibly NCCs and NPCCs to ensure data harmonization across all WHO regions. These indicators should be shared with the GCC for approval.” (p. 15)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the GCC, November 2023](#)

## Novel poliovirus strains

**Recommendation made: November 2024 (also listed above, under ‘Poliovirus surveys and inventories’)**

### Pertains to:

- **surveying of novel poliovirus strains**

*“1. GCC recommended that all novel poliovirus strains of all serotypes be included on country survey forms e.g., nOPV1 to 3, S19 etc.” (p. 27)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the GCC, November 2024](#)

**Recommendation made: November 2023**

**Pertains to:**

- **global mapping of facilities retaining novel poliovirus strains, their specific activities and current risk mitigation measures**

*“4.7 GCC recommends that a mapping exercise be carried out to determine the number and country location of facilities (research, manufacturing, etc.) retaining novel poliovirus (nOPV1, nOPV2, nOPV3, tnOPV, S19 (all serotypes with and without N18S), CAVA strains). In addition, understanding the specific activities being conducted with these strains and the risk mitigation measures currently in place for their handling novel poliovirus strains in such facilities will be important to determining an appropriate compliance verification structure.” (p. 16)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the GCC, November 2023](#)

**Recommendation made: June 2022**

**Pertains to:**

- **maintenance of a global inventory of facilities retaining novel poliovirus strains**
- **provision of information on these facilities by NACs or NPCCs**

*“3.2 GCC recommends that WHO maintains an inventory of facilities retaining novel poliovirus strains, with the collection of the same information as that which is provided in the Certificate of Participation (CP). This information should be provided by the facility to its National Authority for Containment (NAC) where one exists, or to its National Polio Containment Coordinator and processed onwards to the CWG Secretariat.” (p. 14)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Second Meeting of the GCC, June 2022](#)

## Poliovirus potentially infectious material

Recommendation made: November 2023

Pertains to:

- **GCC to assess risk presented by PIM**

*“4.8 GCC recommends that a ‘White Paper’ on the containment of PV PIM be developed with the aim of presenting evidence on the likelihood of the presence of PV in PV PIM and assessing the risk of a release of poliovirus from facilities retaining PV PIM. This will provide a better understanding into the level of oversight needed (national or global), the mechanism for this oversight, and the way forward for the GCC to use these data (if at all) for the certification of eradication.” (p. 16)*

Full report: [Report from the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the GCC, November 2023](#)

Recommendation made: February 2018

Pertains to:

- **GCC consideration of PIM (and containment breach) risk management at time of certification of eradication of WPV1**

*“...at the time of global WPV certification, the GCC will consider the status of biorisk management of potentially infectious materials and readiness plan to respond to containment breaches” (p. 11)*

Full report: [Report from the Seventeenth Meeting of the GCC, February 2018](#)

**Acronyms:**

GCC – Global Commission for the Certification of Eradication of Poliomyelitis

CWG – Containment Working Group of the GCC

CAG – Containment Advisory Group

PV – poliovirus

WPV – wild poliovirus

VDPV – vaccine-derived poliovirus

IM – infectious material

PIM – potentially infectious material

GAPIV – Global Action Plan for poliovirus containment

CCS – Containment Certification Scheme

CP – Certificate of Participation

ICC – Interim Certificate of Containment

CC – Certificate of Containment

NAC – National Authority for Containment

NPCC – National Poliovirus Containment Coordinator

nOPV – novel oral polio vaccine

tnOPV – trivalent novel oral polio vaccine

RCC – Regional Certification Committee

NCC – National Certification Committee