

Global poliomyelitis (Polio) alert

On 5 May 2014, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the recent international spread of wild poliovirus a public health emergency of international concern under the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 and issued Temporary Recommendations under the International Health Regulations.

Follow the link to The [WHO statement](#) [external link].

Advice for travellers

General travel recommendations

All Australians travelling overseas should be up to date with their routine immunisations and should consult with their general practitioner regarding additional vaccination requirements.

Country-specific poliomyelitis recommendations

It is recommended that Australians travelling to **Pakistan, Cameroon, Syria, Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia or Nigeria** are up to date with routinely recommended [vaccinations against polio](#) [external link], including a booster, prior to departure.

Australians travelling to **Pakistan, Cameroon or Syria**, and staying for periods greater than four weeks, will be **required** to have documented evidence of having received a dose of polio vaccine within 12 months prior to departure from these countries. If you do not have documented evidence of polio vaccination within this 12 month period, you may be required to be vaccinated prior to departure from these countries.

Australians travelling to **Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia or Nigeria**, and staying for periods greater than four weeks, are **encouraged** to have documented evidence of having received a dose of polio vaccine within 12 months prior to departure from these countries. If you do not have documented evidence of polio vaccination within this 12 month period, you may be encouraged to be vaccinated prior to departure from these countries.

Further Information

- Poliomyelitis factsheet - <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Poliomyelitis.aspx>
- NSW Immunisation schedule - <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule.aspx>

Last updated: 16 May 2014