

U.S. National Authority for Containment of Poliovirus

Interim Guidance for Potentially Infectious Materials

Poliovirus Potentially Infectious Materials (PIM)

Laboratories and other facilities that handle or store poliovirus materials pose a risk of the virus being reintroduced into communities.



Samples collected for ANY purpose may contain poliovirus and must be handled, stored, and tested carefully.

The Need for Containment

- Vaccination can protect workers and communities.
- Verify poliovirus vaccination records of workers.
- Vaccination does prevent disease. It does not prevent asymptomatic infection and further spreading of polioviruses.
- A vaccinated worker could still become infected while working with PIM samples.



SCAN QR CODE
TO REPORT
SAMPLES

PIM Sample Types

- Environmental (sewage, wastewater)
- Respiratory secretions
- Stool specimens
- Uncharacterized Enterovirus samples
- Extracted nucleic acids (from any of the above)

**Routine Diagnostic/
Environmental Samples**
SECURE PIM samples
REPORT PIM stored \geq 30 days

Poliovirus Positive Samples
CONFIRM testing with CDC
REPORT positives within 7 days

Collection, Storage, & Testing of PIM Samples

SAFETY

- DO** implement enhanced risk mitigation strategies.
- DO** consider polio vaccination status of workers.
- DO** use universal precautions.
- DO** wear personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves and eye and face protection.
- DO** decontaminate work surfaces with 20% bleach.
- DO** wash hands frequently.

TESTING

- DO** concentrate samples in a biosafety cabinet.
- DO** use extraction methods validated to inactivate poliovirus.
- DO** confirm poliovirus-positive samples with CDC.
- DO** report presumptive and confirmed poliovirus positives to NAC within seven (7) days.
- DON'T** culture samples without an enhanced laboratory.
- DON'T** ship samples for confirmation without proper Category B requirements.

STORAGE

- DO** destroy nonessential samples after testing (e.g., autoclave, incinerator).
- DO** store samples separately.
- DO** store samples securely.
- DO** maintain records of collected samples.
- DO** report to NAC any samples stored for thirty (30) or more days.
- DON'T** retain positive containment strains (e.g., VDPV2) unless designated as a poliovirus-essential facility.

Contact NAC at poliocontainment@cdc.gov



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



NAC
U.S. National Authority
for Containment of Poliovirus

Center for Preparedness and Response

October 2022