



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

POLIO (POLIOMYELITIS)

What is polio?

A disease caused by a virus which can lead to temporary paralysis, permanent paralysis or death.

How is polio spread?

- Person to person by putting anything in the mouth that has come in contact with stool (poop) infected by the polio virus
- Person to person contact with infected droplets from the nose or mouth of people infected with polio.

What are possible symptoms?

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Extreme muscle pain
- Stiffness in the neck and back

How is polio diagnosed?

By special laboratory tests of the throat, stool or spinal fluid.

What is the treatment for polio?

There is presently no cure for polio. The goal of treatment is to control pain and discomfort.

How can polio be prevented?

Polio vaccine effectively prevents polio in most people.

For more information on poliomyelitis:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001402.htm