



Warden Message

To: All U.S. citizens living in Republic of the Congo
Subject: Polio Vaccination Campaign

No. 2010/09
Date: 16 November 2010

In response to the acute poliomyelitis (polio) outbreak in the Republic of the Congo, the Congolese government in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a nationwide polio vaccination campaign. The WHO has recommended that all persons living in Congo be vaccinated. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concurs with the World Health Organization's recommendation, and encourage all U.S. citizens, even those already vaccinated against polio, to participate in the vaccination campaign. Further information on the vaccine and how to get vaccinated is provided below.

For the latest information on the polio outbreak, please see the World Health Organization's Disease Outbreak website: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

Additional general information on polio is available on the CDC's Travelers' Health website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-2/poliomyelitis.aspx>

Background on the Vaccine

The Congolese government launched a vaccination campaign in Pointe Noire and the Kouilou Department on November 12. The vaccination campaign will be expanded to Brazzaville and the rest of the country on November 18.

The campaign is using an oral poliovirus vaccine known as monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1). The vaccine is administered orally, and is taken in a three dose series. Following the initial dose, two follow-up doses should be administered. The second and third doses should be administered at least one week after the previous dose.

According to the U.S. National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the CDC, mOPV1 is the preferred vaccine for mass vaccinations to control polio outbreaks.

Further information on polio vaccination is available on the CDC's website at the following address: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/polio/default.htm>

How to get Vaccinated

Vaccination is already underway in Pointe Noire and is set to begin on November 18 in Brazzaville and the rest of the Congo. Once the campaign starts in your area, the vaccine should be readily available at local clinics, major employers, markets, and some local government offices. In some areas, the government will also be organizing a door-to-door vaccination campaign.

If you are in Pointe Noire and have not yet received your vaccine, you should contact your local healthcare provider. In Brazzaville and the rest of the country, an information campaign should begin shortly that will provide more specific information on the nearest vaccination sites.

The U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville also strongly encourages U.S. citizens to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/) (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>) so you can receive the most up-to-date security information. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy is located on Boulevard Denis Sassou Nguesso across from the Blanche Gomez Maternity Hospital. The Consular Section is open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and on Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Our daytime telephone number is (+242) 06 612-2046. The Consular Section can also be contacted via email at BrazzavilleACS@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, call (+242) 04 444-0013.
