

contacts must be under 5 years of age and preferable without recent vaccination history (within the last 30 days) with oral polio vaccine.

- Laboratory confirmation: The sample is inoculated into cell cultures where the virus can infect and replicate. The isolated virus is subsequently typified by molecular assays, starting with RT-PCR to determine the serotype followed by another RT-PCR assay to determine whether it is a wild virus or resembles a vaccine virus, then genetic sequencing tests are performed to confirm the viral genotype. The genetic sequence obtained is compared with a reference bank of known polioviruses sequences, making it possible to identify whether the virus is genetically related to other previously reported sequences. Genetic sequence information would allow inferences to be made about the geographic origin of the virus isolated from the sample.

Countries/territories are urged to have an updated outbreak response plan aligned with the most recent standard operating procedures published by WHO currently version 4.0 of March 2022, to confirm a polio outbreak. WHO

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