

COVID-19 A REMINDER OF THE POLIO PANDEMIC



WHAT POLIO CAN TELL US ABOUT COVID-19 AND VICE VERSA

- As Mark Twain is said to have said, history does not repeat itself, but it often rhymes
- It is just a plane ride a way
 - (we have been saying this about Polio and Covid-19 definitely showed us this is true)
- Handwashing and social distancing are important in the spread
- If we don't stop it in its track it will come back
 - Complacency with both has shown that it will come back

HOW DOES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ROTARY'S FIGHT TO END POLIO?

- We are fully committed to supporting national health systems by engaging our expertise and assets to help mitigate and contain the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside continuing concerted efforts to eradicate polio.
- Using the vast infrastructure developed to identify the poliovirus and deliver vaccination campaigns, the polio eradication program is pitching in to protect the vulnerable from COVID-19, especially in polio-endemic countries
- In 13 countries, polio volunteers have been deployed to address COVID-19 preparations and response

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- The pandemic-related disruptions to routine immunizations resulted in a temporary stop in vaccination campaigns. Polio campaigns have resumed in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as Angola and Burkina Faso (areas of high risk) in alignment with strict COVID-19 prevention measures
- We understand that attention to polio eradication will be temporarily diverted, and this makes it all the more vital for Rotarians to remain strongly committed to fighting polio and not let our progress be eroded.
- ***It is imperative that we remain committed to our work eradicating polio.***

WHAT WE NEED FROM EVERY CLUB

- Promote the Polio Plus program
- Every Club must give to Polio Plus
 - Hold fundraising event
- Take Part in World Polio Day, October 24th
 - The district has several different options that will be distributed soon
 - Have a speaker we have several Roatarians in the district who have taken part in Polio NIDs