

# How to Protect Yourself When Sampling Wastewater in Areas Known or Suspected to Have Circulating Polioviruses (PV)

Interim Guidance for Poliovirus Potentially Infectious Materials (PIM)  
U.S National Authority for Containment of Poliovirus

## Poliovirus Potentially Infectious Materials (PIM)

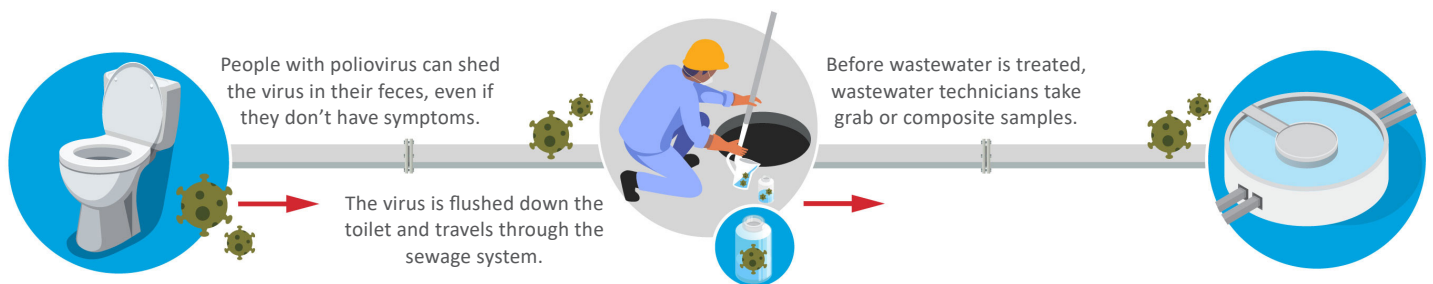
**Consider risks of wastewater sampling and special safety practices when collecting environmental samples in an area known or suspected to have circulating PV (i.e., poliovirus PIM area).**



### Environmental Samples\*

- Concentrated sewage
- Primary sludge
- Wastewater (e.g., grab, composite samples)

\*Collected in areas known or suspected to have circulating polioviruses.



## Take Safety Steps When Collecting ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Collected samples may contain poliovirus and must be handled, stored and tested carefully.

### WORKER SAFETY

- Consider risks of poliovirus exposure when conducting job safety analyses.
- Ensure workers are trained on sewage & waste handling procedures.
- Confirm polio vaccination status of workers.

### SAMPLE COLLECTION

- Use special safety precautions & job-specific personal protective equipment (i.e, gloves, eye, face, body and foot protection).
- Wash hands frequently with soap & water.
- Decontaminate work surfaces with 20% bleach (1 part household bleach: 4 parts water).

### SAMPLE STORAGE & CONTAINMENT

- Destroy nonessential samples or return to treatment train.
- Store PIM samples separately from non-PIM samples in a locked area or storage unit.
- Maintain records of collected samples & report to NAC any samples stored for thirty (30) or more days.

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

Guidance for Reducing Health Risks to Workers Handling Human Waste or Sewage (CDC)  
Procedures for Collecting Wastewater Samples (EPA)

SEND QUESTIONS TO: NAC at [poliocontainment@cdc.gov](mailto:poliocontainment@cdc.gov)



SCAN QR CODE  
TO REPORT  
SAMPLES



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



NAC  
U.S. National Authority  
for Containment of Poliovirus

Office of Readiness and Response

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