



Ministry of Health

PRESS STATEMENT ON CONTINUING POLIO CAMPAIGN

09TH NOVEMBER 2024

Following the recent polio campaign, the Ministry of Health would like to clarify some important facts that were misrepresented following yesterday's press release.

Polio is a highly infectious and debilitating vaccine-preventable viral disease with the potential to cause paralysis and even death in a matter of hours among young children who are not fully vaccinated

While there is no cure for Polio, the disease can be prevented by receiving the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV). All Kenyan children under the age of 5 years are expected to be up to date with childhood vaccines where they receive Polio vaccine at birth, 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and 14 weeks as per the routine immunization schedule. In the event of an outbreak, the polio vaccine is given to all children 0-59 months irrespective of their previous vaccination status.

All vaccines given by the Ministry of Health, including the polio vaccine, are safe and effective in protecting our children against vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are designed to stimulate an immune response in the body against infectious diseases, and this reaction inevitably carries a small attributable risk to the health of a minority of

children. While mild side effects may occur, these often resolve quickly. Any concerns to the caregivers are usually reported to the nearest health facility or through *271#.

Concerns from parents on the recent polio campaign that took place from October 2nd-6th 2024 were investigated by the Kenya National Vaccine Safety Advisory Committee (KNVSAC) who found out that the reactions were coincidental and resolved over time. Many times, health events happen around the time of vaccination by chance and are not caused by the vaccine itself.

The Ministry jointly with the global community has a vision to eradicate Polio, and we can only do this by through achieving high vaccination coverage against this debilitating disease. We continue to urge all parents, guardians, and caregivers to bring their children for routine immunization as per the immunization schedule and to avail their children of the current second round of polio vaccination campaigns taking place from 9' to 13" November 2024 so that we can eradicate this disease



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DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HEALTH