

20 July 2020 – Essential polio immunization campaigns are restarting in the Eastern Mediterranean Region this week under strict COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, following a 4-month pause on all vaccination campaigns, including those to stop ongoing polio outbreaks.

Pakistan today kicked off a small-scale polio outbreak response campaign in selected districts, aiming to vaccinate almost 800 000 children under-5 years of age.

In line with WHO global guidelines, and guidance developed specifically for polio immunization activities in the Region, health workers have been trained on preventative and precautionary measures to ensure the safety of frontline workers, children and their families. Specific measures include screening of workers for symptoms of COVID-19, provision of masks and hand sanitizers, a new, physically distanced protocol for door-knocking and finger marking, keeping distance inside homes, and minimizing contact with children while vaccinating them. Only workers from local communities will provide house-to-house vaccination to prevent introduction of SARS-CoV2 infection in non-infected areas.



Related link

[Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme](#)

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