

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024*

**Statement on World Polio Day**

*October 24, 2024*

The United States is proudly a leader and core strategic partner in the world's quest to eradicate polio and because of our efforts, the world has a historic window of opportunity to end polio for good. Today we reaffirm our commitment to secure a polio-free future.

Through our leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, our sustained commitment to ending polio has resulted in 20 million people walking today who otherwise could have been paralyzed. We have reduced the number of children paralyzed by 99.9 percent and vaccinated over 3 billion children against polio. However, polio persists in some of the world's most challenging environments.

If high vaccination rates against polio are not achieved and maintained, including amidst instability, conflict, and misinformation mounting around the world, the risk of polio outbreaks will rise even in places long considered polio-free, like we've recently seen in New York, London, and Ukraine, as well as in Gaza, where all parties must ensure the safe and effective implementation of the polio vaccination campaign that is urgently needed throughout Gaza.

In order to achieve the goal of eradicating polio, the world must rally together. Delivering a polio-free world with stronger health systems and communities is not only the right thing to do for humanity, but a smart investment in the health of future generations and our collective global health security. Together, we can make it a reality.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : World Polio Day.

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