

## 1. WHO POLIOVIRUSES & POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS SURVEY 2021

Have you seen communication about the 2021 Australian Facilities Survey: Management of Polioviruses and Potentially Infectious Materials (PIMs) at your facility?

### WHAT?

CSIRO in collaboration with the Department for Health and WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative is conducting a survey to assess and manage poliovirus potentially infectious materials. Every *potential* storage facility Australia-wide is required to undertake the 2021 survey whether it's believed there are Poliovirus PIM's onsite or not.

### WHO?

Any facility which manages *any* biospecimens, *so that's every facility*, must complete the 2021 survey. Communication about how to complete the survey has been sent to all pathology, biomedical research and water waste facilities nation-wide. Wild poliovirus has been declared eliminated in Australia since 2000, because of this it's possible your facility isn't aware the survey is relevant or necessary to complete. However, getting the survey information from all facilities is critical to ensure all as yet unidentified potentially infectious materials are identified and properly managed. The survey also ensures all Australian facilities continue to support WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative requirements.

### WHY?

The last poliovirus PIM was survey conducted in 2002, the present survey is conducting a sweep to identify materials that may have been overlooked as potentially infectious in, or, since 2002. Wild poliovirus remains active in many locations globally, while eradicated in Australia, samples of it may be present in old, internationally sourced, or poliovirus animal research biospecimens in your facility. We must conduct a uniform assessment to know.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you're an administrator of a facility and you haven't seen, or responded to, communication on the survey, please contact [poliosurvey@csiro.au](mailto:poliosurvey@csiro.au)

Alternatively, you can [click here](#) to go directly to the survey.

If you haven't heard what *your* facility is doing to address the 2021 survey, please raise it with facility administrators. We all need to work together with the World Health Organisation to support their efforts in the final stages towards global eradication of polio. You can find more information on the survey on the [2021 Polio Survey website](#).