

Polio

Approximately 95% of children infected with this virus are asymptomatic. 4 to 8% of children present with a low grade fever and sore throat. Of these symptomatic children, 1 to 5% of them may develop aseptic meningitis after the symptoms of minor illness resolve.

A total of 0.1 to 2% of children develop the rapid onset of acute flaccid paralysis which may affect a person's ability to breathe. **These children require immediate intensive care and often are placed on mechanical ventilation. Two-thirds of these critically ill children are left with residual, permanent paralysis. Some ill children may die.**

This virus is transmitted only by humans. The route of transmission is fecal, oral, and through the respiratory tract. Transmission usually occurs shortly before and immediately after the onset of clinical illness. This infection most commonly affects infants and young children.

The last reported case of Polio in the United States was in 1979. All of the 14 infections reported in 1979 occurred in unimmunized people. In the last few years there have been cases of Polio reported throughout the world. With frequent international travel, it is possible that we may see the return of widespread Polio infection here in this country in the future.

No serious adverse events have ever been associated with the use of the injectable Polio vaccine.