
Polio

Description: Polio is caused by the polio virus. It gains entry to the body by fecal-oral spread and can infect the intestinal tract. It can be excreted and may be spread through the feces. Polio attacks the nervous system and can cause paralysis in legs or other parts of the body. Polio is still common in other parts of the world where many people remain unvaccinated. Because of widespread use of polio vaccine, the United States has not had a naturally occurring case of polio in more than 20 years.

Control: All children should be immunized against polio with doses of the polio vaccine (IPV) at 2, 4, and 6 months and at 4 to 6 years of age.