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SPREAD OF WILD POLIO VIRUS IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has advised that the World Health Organization (WHO) has extended the travel restrictions to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The DFA notes that under WHO guidelines, residents and long - term visitors (over four - week stay) to Pakistan and Afghanistan must receive a dose of the *Oral Polio Vaccine* (OPV) or *Inactive Poliovirus Vaccine* (IPV) between four (4) weeks to twelve (12) months prior to international travel.

It further reported that poliovirus is endemic in Afghanistan and in the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) in Pakistan. The security situation in these areas makes it even more difficult for government health workers to conduct complete vaccination to residents in the area.

All workers and recruitment agencies are enjoined to ensure that the requirement for polio vaccination is complied with. Furthermore, the existing restriction on Pakistan which is under Alert Level 1 (Precautionary Phase) and Afghanistan which is under Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation Phase) based on POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 21, Series of 2014, shall continue to apply.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


HANS LEO J. CACDAC
Administrator

Source : Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

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