



**PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY - PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE
SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Statement of Support for the
Department of Health Polio Supplemental Immunization Activity
29 August 2019**

As a response to the growing threat of wild poliovirus re-introduction, the Department of Health recently announced a Supplemental Immunization Activity (SIA) starting 19 August 2019. This aims to provide an extra dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to all children under the age of 5 years regardless of previous polio immunizations, residing in NCR, Region 3 (Central Luzon) and Region 4A (Calabarzon).

Although the Philippines has been declared polio-free since 2000, increasing international travel, decreasing vaccination coverage and issues encountered regarding surveillance (which will ultimately have implications on timely reporting of actual cases) have created a situation favoring poliomyelitis re-emergence. In addition, the recent isolation of polio virus from environmental samples has increased the need for an immediate response from all sectors.

The Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) are enjoining fellow pediatricians and other child health advocates to act swiftly on this potential crisis, by supporting and encouraging the vaccination of all eligible children with OPV regardless of the number of doses previously received. Let us educate parents and guardians about the importance of participating in this SIA, so that everyone can be protected against this catastrophic disease.

Polio should not come back to the Philippines. Not on our watch!