

Results of the epidemiological wastewater surveillance of polioviruses in Slovenia

In 2024, Slovenia implemented epidemiological wastewater surveillance of polioviruses. Wastewater sampling is conducted quarterly at selected wastewater treatment plants, in accordance with the [Wastewater surveillance plan of polioviruses in Slovenia](#).

The last confirmed case of poliomyelitis in Slovenia occurred in 1978. Therefore, the primary objective of epidemiological wastewater surveillance of polioviruses in Slovenia is to detect any potential reintroduction of polioviruses into the country.

Monitoring results

Composite sample (for the area)	Results					
	4 th and 5 th March 2024	3 rd and 4 th June 2024	2 nd and 3 rd September 2024	2 nd and 3 rd December 2024	3 rd and 4 th March 2025	2 nd and 3 rd June 2025
Central Slovenian region – Ljubljana ¹	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative
Central Slovenian region – other ²	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative
Primorska region ³	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	SL3* (WWTP Nova Gorica)
Celje-Novo mesto region ⁴	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative
Eastern Slovenia region ⁵	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative

¹ WWTP Ljubljana; ² WWTP Domžale-Kamnik, WWTP Kranj, WWTP Trbovlje, WWTP Litija in Šmartno pri Litiji, WWTP Zagorje; ³ WWTP Koper, WWTP Nova Gorica, WWTP Postojna; ⁴ WWTP Celje, WWTP Šaleške doline, WWTP Novo mesto, WWTP Brežice; ⁵ WWTP Maribor, WWTP Murska Sobota, WWTP Slovenj Gradec.

Interpretation of results

The monitoring plan covers 16 major wastewater treatment plants, representing 34.2% of Slovenia's population across all statistical regions. Up to and including March 2025, **no evidence of polioviruses has been detected** in wastewater samples.

In June 2025, no polioviruses were detected in wastewater samples from the Central Slovenian region – Ljubljana, Central Slovenian region – other, Celje-Novo mesto region and Eastern Slovenia region. * However, in the wastewater sample from the WWTP Nova Gorica (from the composite sample for the Primorska region), **the presence of a Sabin-like type 3 (SL3) was confirmed**.

Sabin polioviruses are used in oral polio vaccines (OPV). OPV is still widely used in national routine vaccination programmes in many countries outside Europe (mainly in Asia and Africa). Sabin vaccine strains and Sabin-like polioviruses are therefore frequently detected in the population

and in wastewater where OPV is routinely used, or in locations where recently vaccinated individuals may be present and shedding the virus. The detection of SL3 in the WWTP Nova Gorica does not pose a risk to public health, and **no additional measures are necessary**. Nevertheless, it demonstrates that Slovenia has a highly sensitive and well-functioning system for the epidemiological wastewater surveillance of polioviruses.

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