

## 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 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2024	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2024	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
Central Slovenian region – Ljubljana <sup>1</sup>	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative
Central Slovenian region – other <sup>2</sup>	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	SL1* (WWTP Kranj)
Primorska region <sup>3</sup>	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	SL3* (WWTP Nova Gorica)	negative	negative	negative	negative
Celje-Novo mesto region <sup>4</sup>	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative
Eastern Slovenia region <sup>5</sup>	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	negative	SL1* (WWTP Maribor)

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

### Interpretation of results

The monitoring plan covers 16 major wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), representing 34.2% of Slovenia's population across all statistical regions. Up to and including June 2026, no evidence of polioviruses has been detected in wastewater samples, with the exception of \*the wastewater sample from WWTP Nova Gorica (from the composite sample for the Primorska region), in which the presence of a Sabin-like type 3 (SL3) was confirmed in June 2025, and \*\*the wastewater sample from WWTP Kranj (from the composite sample for the Central Slovenia – Other

area) and the wastewater sample from WWTP Maribor (from the composite sample for the Eastern Slovenia area), in which the presence of a Sabin-like type 1 (SL1) was confirmed in June 2026.

Sabin polioviruses are used in oral polio vaccines (OPV). OPV is still widely used in national routine immunization programs in many countries outside of Europe, particularly in Asia and Africa. As a result, vaccine-derived Sabin and Sabin-like polioviruses can often be detected in the population and in wastewater in areas where OPV is used for routine immunization, or in wastewater from areas where individuals recently vaccinated with OPV—who may be shedding the virus—are or have recently been present. The detection of SL3 and SL1 in wastewater from the catchment areas of WWTP Nova Gorica, WWTP Kranj and WWTP Maribor does not pose a risk to public health, and no additional measures are necessary. However, it does demonstrate that Slovenia has a very sensitive and well-functioning system for epidemiological surveillance of polioviruses in wastewater.

Following the detection of SL3 in the catchment area of WWTP Nova Gorica in June 2025, additional wastewater sampling was conducted on 17 June and 23 June 2025. In addition, following the detection of SL1 in the catchment areas of WWTP Kranj and WWTP Maribor in June 2026, additional wastewater sampling was conducted on 8 June and 15 June 2026. The presence of polioviruses was not confirmed in any of these additional wastewater samples collected during the agile surveillance. This suggests that individuals vaccinated with OPV were no longer shedding the SL3 or SL1 virus in the catchment area of WWTP Nova Gorica, WWTP Kranj and WWTP Maribor or that such individuals were no longer present in this area.

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