



## Press Release

### Is Polio gone? 60 years on from Safe and Effective vaccine discovery

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Polio, or infantile paralysis, is a disease that struck fear into the hearts of parents throughout the early 50s, in Ireland and many other Western countries. So much so that on April 12, 1955, the world came to a stop when the findings of a clinical trial were announced. The vaccine against Polio was considered Safe and Effective.

Now, with the memory of Polio dying out along with the fear of children contracting the virus, being condemned to years in an Iron Lung, the usual reaction to Ireland's Post Polio Support Group is a thought Polio was gone?

Unfortunately, for the 7,000 Survivors of Polio, thought to live in Ireland today, while the disease is no longer being contracted by now vaccinated children, many people are still living with disabilities brought on by the disease. Others are suffering with late effects, what's known as *Post Polio Syndrome*, significantly increasing their disability and causing pain and fatigue later in life.

It is vital that Polio Survivors are not forgotten; while the eradication of this dreadful disease is celebrated, the Post Polio Support Group calls on Irish people not to forget those who survived, and now live with disability or difficulties as a result.

### About the Post Polio Support Group

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. We are the only organisation in Ireland providing practical support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children.

We provide stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. We also help Survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, as well as other supports. The group works to raise awareness, provide information on Polio and its late effects and to ensure Polio Survivors can live with dignity.

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