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## All set to begin National 05-day polio-eradication drive in AJK from April 21:



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Altaf Hamid Rao.

MIRPUR (AJK): April 18: Like rest of the country, all is set to begin nation-wide 05-Day Polio-eradication campaign in Azad Jammu Kashmir from April 21 in all 10 districts of Azad Jammu Kashmir including Muzaffarabad, Neelum Jhelum Valley (Hattian) Bagh Valley, Poonch, Sidhnoti, Kotli, Mirpur and Bhambar, where a total of 742571 children, under 05 years of age, are targetted to be administered polio drops during the door-to-door anti- polio campaign, it was

officially said.

Unveiling the breakup of the national anti-polio drive, a spokesperson of the AJK State Health Services Department told our Special Jammu Kashmir state Correspondent Altaf Hamid Rao on Friday that in Azad Jammu Kashmir, a total of 4058 mobile teams will go door-to-door to administer polio drops to the children. In addition, 450 local hospitals and health centers (Fix Centers) and 163 transit points have been established at all bases, markets and entrances.

Fix centers, transit points and mobile teams will be engaged during the campaign from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Apart from 326 Union Council Supervisors, 946 Area Incharges have been appointed at the Union Council level for the supervision of this campaign, who will supervise the teams and provide them with Dexin and other necessary materials on the spot. Polio control rooms have been set up in each district's DC offices. Apart from this, a polio control room has also been set up at the central level at the Provincial Program Manager PI Azad Jammu Kashmir Main Center Plate Muzaffarabad with phone number 920791-05822 to monitor the daily performance of the Polio drive.

Besides the campaign will also be monitored centrally by WHO, Federal EPI Islamabad and Public Health Officers, the spokesperson said adding that parents have been requested to fully cooperate with the polio staff. "And if for any reason any child is deprived of taking polio drops, then the

respective district control room should be informed so that no child up to five years of age is deprived of taking polio drops through mutual communication between parents and the state health department “, he underlined.

The scheduled 05-day drive titled “Ghar Ghar Hum” in which every child under five years of age will be given polio vaccine drops without any pause, the spokesperson said adding that all necessary arrangements have been completed to make this campaign fully successful.

At the same time Dr. Sardar Manzoor Hussain Provincial Program Manager EPI Azad Jammu Kashmir said on Friday that the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has been declared a polio-free state for the past 24 years,

He continued that the main objective of this nation-wide campaign was to eradicate polio from all over Pakistan. “It is also necessary to administer polio vaccine drops to all children up to the age of 5 years in Azad Jammu Kashmir during the national drive, he underlined.

Dr. Sardar Manzoor Hussain Program Nigeri PI Azad Jammu Kashmir appealed to the parents, teachers, lawyers, ordinary citizens, employees, workers from all over the state to cooperate fully with the door-to-door teams and to play their role in providing polio vaccination to children so that this national campaign could be successful.

“It is also worth mentioning here that Azad Kashmir has been polio free for the past 24 years and it had been possible only because of the special interest of the Azad Kashmir government, members of the assembly, district administration, officers of the public health department, officials, media, journalists and the public”, he observed.

He said that polio and other deadly diseases could be eradicated from the country very soon from their roots if all parents make sure that their children are given polio drops as well as immunizations against other diseases.

The Doctor made a special request to the media to show their first awareness in this national duty by cooperating fully with the Public Health Department to convey this message to the common people so that the epidemic disease like polio could be completely eradicated from Azad Jammu Kashmir, he concluded.