PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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Contact: Christine Gaiger, PHN, Communicable Disease Program Manager
805-781-5577, cgaiger@co.slo.ca.us

Acute Flaccid Myelitis: Be Alert for Illness and Contact Public Health Department with Suspect Cases

Following the confirmation of 62 cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in 22 U.S. states, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is asking providers to be alert for illness suggestive of AFM and to contact the Public Health Department regarding any suspect AFM cases. This includes patients of any age with acute flaccid limb weakness of unknown etiology.

To contact the Public Health Department regarding suspect AFM cases: Call 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.) or 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours).

AFM is a rare neurological condition with sudden onset of limb weakness. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are interested in patients with acute flaccid limb weakness of unknown etiology for whom other conditions that can mimic AFM (e.g., Guillain-Barré syndrome, spinal cord trauma, spinal mass, stroke, and botulism) are not suspected.

CDPH requests that clinicians collect specimens from suspected AFM patients as early as possible in the course of illness, preferably on the day of onset of limb weakness. Early specimen collection offers the best chance of detecting possible etiologies for AFM.

The Public Health Department will work with clinicians to report case information and submit specimens as soon as possible, in accordance with CDPH and CDC protocols.

Please see the attached CDC job aid for clinicians for detail on collecting and submitting specimens in suspect AFM cases.

For more information about AFM, see www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis.

This notice and the attached job aid for clinicians are available at www.slocounty.ca.gov/provider-notices.
Job Aid for Clinicians

How to send information about a suspected AFM case to the health department

1. Identify suspected case of AFM: patient with onset of acute flaccid limb weakness

2. Contact your health department when you identify a suspected case of AFM. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

   - **SLO Public Health Department:**
     - **SLO Public Health Department:** 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8am-5pm) or 805-781-4553 (after hours)

   - **County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department**
     - **County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department**
     - **Attn: Lab**
     - **2191 Johnson Avenue**
     - **San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

3. Health department completes AFM Patient Summary Form, compiles medical records, and sends information to CDC. Patient will be classified by national AFM experts.

4. After expert review, patient classification is given back to health department and relayed to clinician by health department.

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

- Collect specimens as close to onset of limb weakness as possible and store as directed (see table on reverse side)
- CSF, Serum, Stool, NP swab

**INFORMATION SHARING**

- Send copies of the following to your health department for sharing with CDC:
  - admission and discharge notes
  - neurology and infectious disease consult notes
  - MRI report
  - MRI images
  - vaccination history
  - laboratory test results

**SEND TO**

Health department completes AFM Patient Summary Form, compiles medical records, and sends information to CDC. Patient will be classified by national AFM experts.
Job Aid for Clinicians | How to send information about a suspected AFM case to the health department

Specimens to collect and send to CDC for testing for suspected AFM cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>TUBE TYPE</th>
<th>PROCESSING</th>
<th>STORAGE</th>
<th>SHIPPING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>1mL (collect at same time or within 24hrs of serum)</td>
<td>Cryovial</td>
<td>Spun and CSF removed to cryovial</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>≥0.4mL (collect at same time or within 24 hours of CSF)</td>
<td>Tiger/red top</td>
<td>Spun and serum removed to tiger/red top.</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool</td>
<td>≥1 gram (2 samples collected 24hrs apart)</td>
<td>Sterile container</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice. Rectal swabs should not be sent in place of stool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory (NP)/Oropharyngeal (OP) swab</td>
<td>1ml (minimum amount)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Store in viral transport medium</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coordinate with your health department to send information about suspected AFM cases and ship specimens to CDC. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

Contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department:
805-781-5500 (M-F, 8am-5pm) or 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours)

www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)
Division of Viral Diseases

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention