



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

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.

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

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:
805-781-5500 (M-F, 8am-5pm) or
805-781-4553 (after hours)

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

AND

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



Work with your health department to coordinate submission of specimens for testing at CDC.

- Specimens should be shipped overnight to arrive at CDC Tuesday through Friday.
- Specimen submission form ([DASH](#)) should be completed for each specimen submitted.

SEND TO

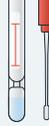
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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.

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

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

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)**

