



## Health Advisory: Acute Flaccid Myelitis

Minnesota Department of Health Thu Oct 22 10:10 CDT 2015

### **Action Steps:**

**Local and tribal health departments:** Please forward to hospitals and clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals and clinics:** Please distribute to infectious disease doctors, infection preventionists, emergency department physicians, intensive care physicians, neurologists, radiologists/neuroradiologists, primary care providers, and pediatricians.

### **Healthcare providers:**

- Report any illness to MDH that meets the following criteria:
  - A person with onset of acute focal weakness, AND
  - MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter, OR
  - CSF with pleocytosis
- Collect stool, respiratory, cerebral spinal fluid, and serum specimens from these patients and submit to MDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for testing.
- Report patients that meet the above criteria at to MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.

### **Background**

In Fall 2014, clusters of pediatric cases with acute limb weakness (acute flaccid myelitis [AFM]) were identified in Colorado and Kansas. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) health advisory was issued requesting that cases consistent with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) in children be reported and specimens submitted for testing. As of February 2015, a total of 111 cases meeting the case definition have been reported from 34 states. All but 1 case was hospitalized. No fatalities attributed to AFM have been reported.

We are working with the CDC to learn more about the incidence and etiology of AFM in all age groups and would like reports of any patients meeting the criteria above.

Reporting of patients meeting the above criteria is consistent with a case of "Unexplained Critical Illness" as per the Communicable Disease Reporting Rule, Chapter 4605.

### **Specimen collection**

All of the following four specimens should be collected and submitted to MDH: stool, respiratory, cerebral spinal fluid, and serum. MDH will test the specimens for respiratory pathogens and other possible causes. Please refer to the MDH Guide to Services [Enterovirus Tests](#) website for submission information.

### **For more information**

Please visit [Ongoing Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis for Health Professionals](#) or call MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.

A copy of this HAN is available on [MDH's Health Alert Network website](#).

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