



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

2018

SCCHD-006

ISSUE DATE: 10/30/18

TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians Walk-in Clinics
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ACUTE FLACCID MYELITIS (AFM)

Nationally there has been an increase in reported acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) cases since August 2018. From January 1 through October 19, 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received 155 reports of patients under investigation for AFM in persons from 35 U.S. states; 62 AFM cases have been confirmed thus far. In Michigan, four individuals are being evaluated for AFM. Clinicians are encouraged to maintain vigilance for AFM among all age groups and to report patients with acute onset of flaccid limb weakness to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Recommendations

- **CASE REPORTING: Clinicians should send the following information about all patients that meet the clinical criterion for AFM (acute onset of flaccid limb weakness) to MDHHS:**
 - Michigan AFM patient summary form (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/20150827_AF_M_Patient_Summary_Form_MI_498628_7.pdf)
 - Admission and discharge notes
 - Neurology and infectious disease consult notes
 - Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) reports AND images
 - Complete vaccination history, and
 - Laboratory test results.

Information should be sent regardless of specific laboratory or MRI results.

- **LABORATORY TESTING: Clinicians should collect specimens from patients under investigation for AFM as early as possible in the course of illness, preferably on the day of onset of limb weakness and coordinate with MDHHS to submit specimens to CDC for testing. Specimens to collect include:**
 - CSF
 - Serum and
 - A nasopharyngeal (NP) or oropharyngeal (OP) swab, and
 - Stool
 - Please note: Collection of stool is required for AFM surveillance. Two stool specimens should be collected at least 24 hours apart early in the course of illness to rule out poliovirus infection.
 - Pathogen-specific testing for diagnostic purposes should continue at hospital or state public health laboratories.
 - AFM testing at CDC includes:
 - Routine enterovirus/rhinovirus testing and typing of CSF, respiratory, and stool specimens and poliovirus testing of stool specimens to rule out the presence of poliovirus. Results will be provided to the submitter once testing is completed.
 - Additional testing of CSF and serum to look for etiology/mechanism for AFM. Patient-level results for the additional testing will not be provided since the testing protocols are not performed under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) nor intended for clinical diagnosis.

For more information:

AFM resources can be found on the MDHHS CDInfo website under Communicable Diseases A-Z:

www.michigan.gov/cdinfo.

- AFM Investigation: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/afm-surveillance.html>
- For Clinicians and Health Departments: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/index.html>
- References: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/references.html>

For more information, please contact the MDHHS Communicable Disease Division: phone, 517-335-8165 and fax, 517-335-8263.

Contact St. Clair County Health Department for reporting and questions at (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the "After Hours Emergency Contact List" for after-hours contact.