

HEALTH ADVISORY



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

Alert categories:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

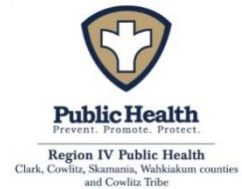
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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HEALTH ADVISORY

November 4, 2016

Increase in suspected cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Washington State since September 2016



Please circulate to neurologists, pediatricians and pediatric neurologists.

Current situation in Washington

- A cluster of suspected acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) has been reported among Washington residents.
- As of November 3rd, 2016, two cases have been confirmed and seven others are being evaluated by CDC.
- All cases are among **children between 3 and 14 years of age** who presented with acute paralysis of one or more limbs. All had a febrile prodrome 1 to 2 weeks prior to presentation with symptoms of AFM.
- The earliest onset of limb weakness was on September 14th and the most recent on October 27th.
- The cases are residents of King County (3), Pierce County (1), Franklin County (2), Snohomish County (1) and Whatcom County (2).

Actions requested

- **Report suspected cases of AFM promptly** (see case definition below) to your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ). Contact information is provided below.
- **Complete the AFM patient summary form** when reporting patients to your LHJ (<http://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/downloads/patient-summary-form.pdf>)
- **Collect specimens** from patients suspected of having AFM **as early as possible in the course of illness (see details below)***.
- Notify your LHJ if you are aware of patients of any age that presented to your facility or practice in 2016 and fit the case definition (must have CSF results or MRI report available).
- Contact your LHJ for guidance.

Background

From January 1st to September 30th, 2016, a total of 89 people in 33 states across the country have been confirmed to have AFM. This represents an increase over the previous 2 years (reporting only started in 2014). Most of these have been in children. No etiology for the infections has been established although a potential association with enterovirus D68 has been reported. AFM is also known to be associated with other neurotropic enteroviruses, adenovirus, herpes viruses, arboviruses including West Nile virus, and other etiologies. Non-infectious causes have not been ruled out.

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Resources

CSTE case definition:

Clinicians should be vigilant and consider AFM in patients presenting with:

- Onset of acute limb weakness **AND** a magnetic resonance image (MRI) showing spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more spinal segments;
- **OR** cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) showing pleocytosis (white blood cell count >5 cells/mm³).

Specimen collection guidance:

Collect specimens from patients suspected of having **AFM as early as possible in the course of illness** including:

- Cerebrospinal fluid,
- Serum (acute and convalescent) and whole blood*,
- Two stool specimens separated by 24 hours (whole stool preferred over rectal swab),
- Upper respiratory tract sample (in order of preference): nasopharyngeal swap > nasal swab > nasal wash/aspirate > oropharyngeal swab,
- Oropharyngeal swab should always be collected in addition to the nasopharyngeal specimen on any patient suspected to have polio.

*Whole blood should be sent refrigerated to CDC and arrive within 24 hours of collection.

Thank you for your partnership.

LHJ	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health:	(360) 397-8182	(360) 397-8080
Cowlitz County Health Department:	(360) 414-5599	(360) 425-7531
Skamania County Community Health:	(509) 427-3850	(509) 427-0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services:	(360) 795-6207	(360) 795-6143