

Reporting Patients Under Investigation for Acute Flaccid Myelitis

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SHOULD

IDENTIFY PUI

Identify patient under investigation (PUI) for acute flaccid myelitis (AFM); patient with:

- onset of acute flaccid limb weakness
- an MRI showing spinal cord lesions in at least some gray matter

CONTACT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Contact your health department to coordinate submission of specimens and information, including copies of:

- Neurology consult notes
- MRI images and report

COLLECT SPECIMENS

Collect CSF, whole stool, respiratory, and serum specimens.

Collect specimens as close to onset of limb weakness as possible and store as directed (freeze as soon as possible after collection).

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS SHOULD

SEND TO CDC

Health department completes [AFM Patient Summary Form](#), compiles medical records, and sends information to CDC.

COORDINATE WITH STATE LAB

Confirm shipping and documentation:

- Specimens should be shipped overnight to arrive at CDC Tuesday through Friday.
- [Specimen submission form](#) should be completed for each specimen submitted.
- Prior to shipping, contact CDC lab: AFMLab@cdc.gov

NOTIFY HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

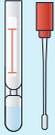
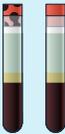
After a neurology expert panel reviews the information, CDC sends case classification to health department.

Health department notifies the treating healthcare provider.*

*Healthcare providers should not wait to receive the case classification to give a clinical diagnosis or to initiate treatment.

Specimens to collect for testing AFM PUIs at CDC

ALL submissions to CDC for diagnostic testing require pre-approval at this time. Please contact AFMLab@cdc.gov before submitting AFM specimens to CDC.

SAMPLE	AMOUNT	TUBE TYPE	PROCESSING	STORAGE	SHIPPING
CSF	0.15 mL, 0.5-2 mL preferred (collect at same time or within 24hrs of serum if feasible)	Cryovial 	Spun and CSF removed to cryovial	Freeze at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$	Frozen on dry ice.
Respiratory Nasopharyngeal (NP)/Oropharyngeal (OP) swab	0.5 mL, 1 mL preferred (minimum amount)	N/A 	Store in vial transport medium	Freeze at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$	Frozen on dry ice.
Serum	0.5 mL, 1 mL preferred (collect at same time or within 24hrs of CSF if feasible)	Tiger/red top for collection; separate tube for shipping 	Spun and serum aliquot removed to separate tube	Freeze at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$	Frozen on dry ice.
Stool	1 gram, 10 – 20 grams preferred (2 samples collected 24hrs apart)	Sterile container 	N/A	Freeze at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$	Frozen on dry ice. Rectal swabs should not be sent in place of stool.

Please, always include whole stool specimens to help identify pathogens and rule out poliovirus.

For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.



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