



Acute Flaccid Myelitis

Because you are an important public health partner, we wanted to share an update on Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) and guidance for health care providers.

AFM is a rare but serious condition which affects the nervous system, specifically the spinal cord, with sudden onset of limb weakness, facial droop, dysphagia and dysarthria. Potential etiologies of AFM include viruses, environmental toxins and genetic disorders.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is coordinating with state and local health departments, as well as health care providers, to investigate suspected cases of AFM. During 2018, 62 confirmed cases have been reported in 22 states, including four in Ohio. No cases have been confirmed yet this year in Columbus and Franklin County.

Although AFM is not currently a nationally notifiable condition nor an Ohio reportable disease, a standardized case definition has been developed to facilitate surveillance and establish baseline incidence. Columbus Public Health (CPH) and Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) request notification of all suspected cases of AFM to coordinate investigation and confirmatory testing at CDC.

Health care providers who suspect acute flaccid myelitis should notify the Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) <https://www.idrsinfo.org> at 614-525-8888.

Learn more about Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/index.html> <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/faqs.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/acute-flaccid-myelitis/case-definition/2018>