



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: MMDDYY HH:MM

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update - Increase in National Reports of Suspected Acute Flaccid Myelitis Cases- 2016

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / ID Physicians/ Neurologists

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Health Public Health Agencies - for your information

HEALTH UPDATE

Increase in National Reports of Suspected Acute Flaccid Myelitis Cases- 2016

KEY POINTS:

- Nationwide, 21 confirmed cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) have been reported to CDC from January 1 - June 30, 2016 among persons 6 months to 64 years of age. CDC is alerting public health officials to this increase and requesting prompt reporting and specimen collection of suspect AFM cases.
- AFM is a condition defined by acute focal limb weakness with either MRI abnormalities in the gray matter of the spinal cord or presence of pleocytosis (elevated white blood cell count) in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
- No increase in cases has been reported in Colorado this year. One case of AFM was reported in 2015 and one case was reported in 2016 (as of August 3rd). During 2014, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment received 12 reports of children with AFM.
- For questions or to report a case, please call Emily Spence Davison at 303-692-2672. Additional information about reporting, specimen collection, and case definitions is available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/AFM>.

BACKGROUND:

From January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, CDC received 36 reports of suspected acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in persons from 20 U.S. states; a total of 21 met the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) case definition for a confirmed case of AFM and 3 were classified as probable. During the same period in 2015, CDC received only 8 reports of suspected AFM, of which 5 were classified as confirmed. Among the 21 confirmed cases reported in 2016, median age was 7 years (range, 6 months - 64 years). Dates of onset for confirmed cases ranged from December 1, 2015 through June 18, 2016; 48% (10/21) had onset of limb weakness after May 1, 2016. Because of the reports of a possible epidemiological association of EVD-68 and AFM in 2014, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens available from 86% (18/21) of confirmed cases were tested at CDC; all specimens were negative for enterovirus at CDC but some respiratory specimens have tested positive for EVD-68. Pleocytosis was present in 81% (17/21) of confirmed AFM cases with a median of 50/mm³ (range, 6-758/mm³).

