Job Aid for Clinicians

How to send information about a suspected AFM case to the health department

1. **Identify suspected case of AFM:** patient with onset of acute flaccid limb weakness

2. **Contact your health department** when you identify a suspected case of AFM. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

   **SPECIMEN COLLECTION**
   - Collect specimens as close to onset of limb weakness as possible and store as directed (see table on reverse side)
   - CSF, Serum, Stool, NP swab
   - Work with your health department to coordinate submission of specimens for testing at CDC.
   - Specimens should be shipped overnight to arrive at CDC Tuesday through Friday.
   - Specimen submission form (DASH) should be completed for each specimen submitted.

   **INFORMATION SHARING**
   - Send copies of the following to your health department for sharing with CDC:
     - Admission and discharge notes
     - Neurology and infectious disease consult notes
     - MRI report
     - MRI images
     - Vaccination history
     - Laboratory test results

3. **Health department completes AFM Patient Summary Form**, compiles medical records, and sends information to CDC. Patient will be classified by national AFM experts.

4. **After expert review**, patient classification is given back to health department and relayed to clinician by health department.
## Specimens to collect and send to CDC for testing for suspected AFM cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>TUBE TYPE</th>
<th>PROCESSING</th>
<th>STORAGE</th>
<th>SHIPPING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>1mL (collect at same time or within 24hrs of serum)</td>
<td>Cryovial</td>
<td>Spun and CSF removed to cryovial</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>≥0.4mL (collect at same time or within 24 hours of CSF)</td>
<td>Tiger/red top</td>
<td>Spun and serum removed to tiger/red top.</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool</td>
<td>≥1 gram (2 samples collected 24hrs apart)</td>
<td>Sterile container</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice. Rectal swabs should not be sent in place of stool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory (NP)/Oropharyngeal (OP) swab</td>
<td>1ml (minimum amount)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Store in viral transport medium</td>
<td>Freeze at -20°C</td>
<td>Ship on dry ice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coordinate with your health department to send information about suspected AFM cases and ship specimens to CDC. For health department contact information, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)
Division of Viral Diseases