



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**  
**Update**

NEBRASKA  
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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers, Laboratories, Public Health

FROM: Thomas J. Safranek, M.D.                      Blake Hendrickson, MPH  
State Epidemiologist                              Epidemiologist  
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RE: **Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM): What Health Care Providers Need to Know**

DATE: November 9, 2018

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health departments nationally have been tracking acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, for the past 4 years. There has been heightened media interest recently relating to an increase in reported cases of this serious condition that generally causes sudden weakness in the arms and/or legs of children. Despite recent widespread attention, AFM is very uncommon. In 2018, there have been 80 confirmed cases nationally (as of 11/2/18). Patient symptoms have been most similar to complications of infection with certain viruses, including poliovirus, non-polio enteroviruses, adenoviruses, and West Nile virus. CDC has not confirmed the cause for the majority of these cases.

CDC has prepared a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) for Tuesday, November 13 to provide updates on the current AFM recommendations. During this call, subject matter experts will highlight the importance of reporting cases to learn more about this condition and the process for reporting. They will also cover specimen collection and testing, and what CDC is doing for its AFM investigation. Attendance information is below.

**CDC COCA Call - Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM): What Health Care Providers Need to Know**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 P.M. ET

**A few minutes before the webinar begins, please follow the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://zoom.us/j/272662215>

**Or Telephone:**

US: 1 (669) 900 6833

**Webinar ID: 272 662 215**

The recordings (audio, slides, and transcript) for this call will be posted on the webpage a week after the COCA Call. Free Continuing Education (CE) is available for this conference at <https://tceols.cdc.gov/>.

**Clinicians should contact their state or local health department when suspect cases of AFM are identified, irrespective of laboratory or imaging results. In Nebraska, this includes your district health department or Blake Hendrickson, Vaccine-preventable disease epidemiologist at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (402-471-6450). Questions can also be directed to [blake.hendrickson@nebraska.gov](mailto:blake.hendrickson@nebraska.gov).**

**For more information:**

- AFM Investigation: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/afm-surveillance.html>
- For Clinicians and Health Departments: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/index.html>
- References: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/references.html>