Job Aid for Clinicians

How to send information about a suspected AFM case to the VIDOH

Ensure that patient meets **confirmed** or **probable** case definition for acute flaccid myelitis (AFM).

**Confirmed:**
Patient with acute onset of focal limb weakness and an MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more spinal segments.

**Probable:**
Patient with acute onset of focal limb weakness and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) with pleocytosis [white blood cell (WBC) count >5 cells/mm³]

**CSF WBC>5mm³**

**OR**

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION**
Collect specimens as close to onset of limb weakness as possible and store as directed (see table on reverse side)

- CSF
- Serum
- Whole blood
- Stool
- NP swab

Work with VIDOH-EPID to coordinate specimen pick-up for testing at CDC.
- Specimens should be shipped overnight to arrive at CDC Tuesday through Friday.
- Specimens should be shipped within 24–48 hours of collection, if possible.

**INFORMATION SHARING**
Assist VIDOH staff in completing AFM Patient Summary Form available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/data.html](https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/data.html)

VIDOH sends copies of Patient Summary Form, specimens and other clinical information (e.g., MRI scans) to CDC.

**EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**
Call Dr. Esther Ellis at (340) 626-1654 or Dr. Tai Hunte at (240) 472-4466

Direct general questions/requests to Dr. Irene Guendel at irene.guendel@doh.vi.gov or (340) 774-7477 x5646

Contact VIDOH-EPID when you identify a suspect case of AFM.

Revised October 2018
**Specimens to collect and send to CDC for testing for suspect 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 whole blood)</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>CSF</td>
<td>2 mL (collect at same time or within 24hrs of whole blood)</td>
<td>Cryovial</td>
<td>Unspun</td>
<td>Refrigerate at 4°C</td>
<td>Ship overnight on cold packs within 24–48 hours of collection*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>≥0.4mL</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>Whole blood</td>
<td>3 to 5mL (collect at same time or within 24hrs of CSF)</td>
<td>EDTA/heparin tube (lavender or green top)</td>
<td>Unspun</td>
<td>Refrigerate at 4°C</td>
<td>Ship overnight on cold packs within 24–48 hours of collection*</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal swab</td>
<td>≥1 gram (2 samples collected 24hrs apart)</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>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory NP or nasal (mid-turbinate [MT]+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; send ONLY if EV/RV positive for typing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If specimens cannot be shipped within 24-48 hours of collection, consider repeat collection, if feasible.

**Shipping instructions for VIDOH-EPID staff only.

Include a DASH form with each specimen

(https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html)

- Select Test Order Name = ‘Picornavirus Special Study’

**VIDOH-EPID ship specimens to:**

Dr. Will Weldon  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
Building 17, Room 6124  
Atlanta, GA 30329  
Office: 404-639-5485  
Mobile: 404-216-6183  
Email: wweldon@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis

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