

***TN Health Alert Network Communication***

**Acute Flaccid Myelitis**

**September 22, 2022**

**Summary**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is updating providers regarding recent reports of Enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) respiratory disease. EV-D68 has been associated with cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) in recent years. AFM is a rare outcome of EV-D68 infection typically presenting as sudden limb weakness that can lead to permanent paralysis. TDH encourages clinicians to consider the diagnosis of AFM in patients with acute onset of flaccid weakness, especially during September–November, to ensure prompt hospitalization and referral to specialty care. Recent respiratory illness or fever and the presence of neck or back pain or any neurologic symptom should heighten suspicion for AFM. Clinicians should report possible cases of AFM to the **TDH at 615-741-7247** as soon as suspected.

Additionally, with the identification of a paralytic polio case in an unvaccinated person in New York in July 2022, healthcare providers should be aware and consider polio in the differential diagnosis of patients with sudden onset of limb weakness. Clinicians should obtain stool samples from patients with suspected AFM to rule out poliovirus infection, especially if the patient is under-vaccinated and has had recent international travel.

**For more information**

Detailed information concerning signs and symptoms, clinical management, and case reporting requirements for possible cases of both AFM and polio can be found at the below links.

**AFM**

- [CDC AFM Information](#)
- [AFM physician consult and support portal](#)
- [CDC For clinicians and health departments](#)
- [CDC Resources and References for AFM](#)
- [CDC Standardized case definition for AFM surveillance](#)

**POLIO**

- [CDC Poliomyelitis: For Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Polio Fact Sheet-8-17-22-508 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Polio Vaccine ACIP Recommendation](#)
- [CDC Resources and references for polio](#)

Thank you for your participation in public health in Tennessee. Please contact 615-741-7247 to reach the TDH Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program.

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