County Health Department Guidance: Acute Flaccid Myelitis

In Florida, when counties receive a report of possible AFM, we ask that you do the following:

1. Ask the provider to complete the NEW FL-specific PUI form, including primary care doctor and parent/guardian contact information, and submit the records requested on the form (MRI images can come on a CD or portable drive).
2. Notify your regional epidemiologist and laboratory liaison of the AFM PUI and forward the form and electronic records when available.

   MRI images CDs can be sent directly to: Amy Bogucki, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-12 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1720

3. Ask that the provider work with their laboratory to submit available specimens to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories along with a completed BPHL lab submission form with “AFM PUI” in the comments section. No specific tests orders are necessary. Although shipping frozen specimens is ideal, refrigerated specimens are acceptable if shipped to BPHL overnight in a cooler box with frozen gel ice. www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/instructions.html
4. BPHL will conduct enterovirus (including Enterovirus-D68), influenza, and respiratory virus panel PCR testing and West Nile virus IgM testing.
5. Providers should be made aware that laboratory results via BPHL or CDC are not intended for clinical diagnosis or clinical decision making, and may not get reported back to DOH or the submitting provider.
6. No interview or investigation (beyond gathering the records and requesting specimens) by CHD staff is recommended for these cases.
7. The patient information will be forwarded to CDC by BOE and records will be maintained by surveillance section staff in a Merlin outbreak module #3889.
8. When received, CHD epi staff will relay CDC and BPHL lab results and CDC case classification determination to the submitting provider. Note – results and case classification may be delayed by several months and will most likely come in multiple emails as information is relayed to BOE from BPHL and CDC.
9. BOE will prompt CDC 60 days from reporting for AFM case classification if it has not already been provided.

The NEW FL-specific PUI form, the FL clinician job aid and this guidance will be posted on the GSI website.

Please reach out to your regional epidemiologist and laboratory liaison if you have any questions.

1/22/19