

Date: July 25, 2013  
To: Medical Care Providers  
From: Karen Furst, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

**Please distribute to all  
providers and relevant medical  
staff in your office.**

## **Health Advisory: Acute Flaccid Paralysis Cases in California**

Since August 2012 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has been following several cases of unexplained acute flaccid paralysis throughout the state. Many of these cases are described as “polio-like” syndromes. In some instances, there have been long-term disabilities ranging from complete paralysis of one limb to complete paralysis of all four limbs. No single etiology has been found in these cases.

CDPH is interested in learning about other patients such as these to try to determine the incidence and etiology. Several features of these cases appear to indicate an infectious etiology. Although several of the cases have been tested, no single etiology has yet emerged.

CDPH is requesting that patients meeting the following case definition be reported and specimens be submitted for testing. **Collection of specimens should be taken as early as possible after onset of symptoms, and before any IVIG is administered.**

### **CASE DEFINITION:**

Patient (without prior neurologic illness) who presents with:

- Acute flaccid paralysis, including absent or significantly diminished reflexes in one or more limbs **AND**
- EMG showing anterior horn cell disease  
**OR**
- MRI showing grey matter involvement of the spinal cord
- With or without accompanying mental status changes

### **Report the case to San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS)**

FAX: (209) 468-8222 Phone: (209) 468-3822

Confidential Morbidity Report: [http://www.sjcphs.org/disease/disease\\_control\\_reporting.aspx](http://www.sjcphs.org/disease/disease_control_reporting.aspx)

### **Specimen submission:**

**Call Public Health Services Laboratory at 209-468-3460 for more information.**

- Cerebral Spinal Fluid - 2-3cc
- Acute serum (pre-IVIG administration) - 2-3cc in red tiger top tube
- Nasopharyngeal/Throat swab
- Stool specimen in viral transport media (don't delay shipment of above specimens if stool unavailable)

Specimens received by the SJCPHS Lab will be sent to the CDPH Lab. For more information call SJCPHS 468-3822.