



Epi Update for Friday, October 19, 2018
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **In the news: Child “vampire burial” found in Italy baby cemetery unearths “eerie” discovery**
- **In the news: Man dies from extremely rare disease after eating squirrel brains**
- **Infographic: How to spot symptoms of acute flaccid myelitis in your child**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)

So far in 2018, CDC has confirmed 62 cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in 22 states. IDPH has received two AFM reports this year. Both cases were children (one in Western Iowa is still being investigated and the other is in Central Iowa).

AFM is a rare condition that affects a person's nervous system, specifically the spinal cord, causing weakness in one or more limbs. The cause for most cases remain unknown, but potential causes include viruses (like enteroviruses, adenoviruses and West Nile virus), environmental toxins and genetic disorders.

In addition to sudden onset of arm or leg weakness, some people will have

- neck weakness or stiffness,
- drooping eyelids or a facial droop, or
- difficulty swallowing or slurred speech.

If a patient presents with symptoms consistent with AFM, call CADE at 800-362-2736 and we will work with health care providers to collect specimens and obtain the patient history.

For more information about AFM, visit www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/index.html.

West Nile virus update

There have been 91 cases of West Nile virus (WNV) identified in Iowa in 2018, the highest number of cases since 2003. Additional cases remain under investigation. Environmental monitoring of mosquitoes has concluded for the season, with 102 mosquito samples testing positive for WNV. Thirteen horses also tested positive for WNV in 2018.



For more information about West Nile virus in Iowa, visit www.idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness.

In the news: Child “vampire burial” found in Italy baby cemetery unearths “eerie” discovery

www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/10/15/italy-child-vampire-burial-eerie-ritual-prevent-malaria/1645690002/

In the news: Man dies from extremely rare disease after eating squirrel brains

www.livescience.com/63831-squirrel-brains-rare-disorder-creutzfeldt-jakob-disease.html

Infographic: How to spot symptoms of acute flaccid myelitis in your child

How to Spot Symptoms of Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Your Child
Acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, is a rare but serious condition that affects the nervous system.

Symptoms of AFM

- Difficulty moving the eyes or drooping eyelids
- Facial droop or weakness
- Difficulty with swallowing or slurred speech
- Sudden arm or leg weakness

The Nervous System

- Brain
- Spinal cord
- Nerves

Seek medical care right away if your child has any of these symptoms.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis

To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/infographic.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology



Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736