

To: Healthcare Providers in Iowa  
From: Kelly Garcia, Interim Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health  
Re: Designation of Acute Flaccid Myelitis as temporarily reportable  
Date Issued: December 31, 2021

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Pursuant to 641 Iowa Administrative Code 1.3 (139A), I, as the director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, temporarily designate suspected and confirmed acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) as a reportable disease in Iowa. This designation will begin on December 31, 2021 and remain in place until December 31, 2022.

All Iowa health care providers and public, private, and hospital laboratories are required to report any suspected or confirmed cases of AFM to the department's disease notification hotline at 1-800-362-2736 within three days of case identification.

Report any illness to the Iowa Department of Public Health that meets the following criteria:

- A person with onset of acute flaccid\* limb weakness.  
\* Low muscle tone, limp, hanging loosely, not spastic or contracted, AND
- A magnetic resonance image showing a spinal cord lesion in at least some gray matter† and spanning one or more vertebral segments, AND
- Excluding persons with gray matter† lesions in the spinal cord resulting from physician diagnosed malignancy, vascular disease, or anatomic abnormalities.  
† Terms in the spinal cord MRI report such as “affecting mostly gray matter,” “affecting the anterior horn or anterior horn cells,” “affecting the central cord,” “anterior myelitis,” or “poliomyelitis” would all be consistent with this terminology.

  
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IDPH INTERIM DIRECTOR

12/22/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**641-1.3 (139A,141A) Reportable communicable and infectious diseases.** Reportable communicable and infectious diseases are those listed in Appendix A. The director may also designate any disease, poisoning or condition or syndrome temporarily reportable for the purpose of a special investigation.

[ARC 8231B, IAB 10/7/09, effective 11/11/09)