

Public Health

IOWA HHS

Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
LT. GOVERNOR

Kelly Garcia
DIRECTOR

To: Healthcare Providers
From: Kelly Garcia
HHS Director
Re: Designation of Acute Flaccid Myelitis as temporarily reportable
Date Issued: December 29, 2022

Pursuant to 641 Iowa Administrative Code 1.3 (139A), I, as the Director of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, temporarily designate suspected and confirmed acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) as reportable in Iowa. This designation will begin on January 1, 2023 and remain in place until December 31, 2023.

All Iowa healthcare providers are required to report 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 that meets the following criteria:

- A person with onset of acute flaccid¹ limb weakness, AND
- A magnetic resonance image showing a spinal cord lesion in at least some gray² matter
- Excluding persons with gray² matter lesions in the spinal cord resulting from physician diagnosed malignancy, vascular disease, or anatomic abnormalities.

¹Low muscle tone, limp, hanging loosely, not spastic or contracted.

²Terms 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.



Kelly Garcia
HHS Director

December 29, 2022

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. [IARC 8231B,1AB 10/7/09, effective 11/11/09]