



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

# Epi Flash Report

Fort Bend County

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

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## Rare Form of Polio-Like Illness Emerging in Children

Texas Department of State Health Services has reported at least 16 cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) in children in Texas, none from Fort Bend County this year.

At the national level, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention has confirmed 106 cases in 29 states, including Texas as of October 2018. The CDC has seen an unusual rise in cases of AFM in the last four years, affecting 396 adults and children nationwide.

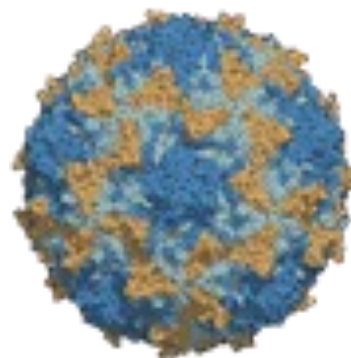
According to CDC, AFM is a severe condition that affects primarily the spinal cord with subsequent impairment of reflexes and muscular function. This results in muscle weakness or paralysis, difficulty moving facial muscles, arm and leg weakness, difficulty swallowing, speaking or urinating, numbness, and tingling. Some patients recover fully from it, while others see lasting neurological damage, respiratory failure and even death.

AFM may have a variety of possible causes such as viruses, environmental toxins, and genetic disorders. Oftentimes, despite extensive lab tests, the cause of a patient's AFM may not be identified.

Viruses that may cause AFM or similar neurologic conditions include poliovirus, non-polio enteroviruses, West Nile virus (WNV) and viruses in the same family as WNV, specifically Japanese encephalitis virus and Saint Louis encephalitis virus, and adenoviruses.

Confirmatory Laboratory Evidence of AFM includes a magnetic resonance image (MRI) showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more vertebral segments. Supportive Laboratory Evidence includes cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) with pleocytosis (white blood cell count >5 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>).

Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) is not nationally notifiable; however Texas and Fort Bend County are participating in enhanced AFM surveillance. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report suspected cases of AFM, especially in children, to Fort Bend County Health & Human Services by using the following phone number 281-342-6414 or fax number 281-342-7371



Type 3 poliovirus capsid, courtesy of RCSI-PDB Organization

## Environmental & Infectious Diseases in Fort Bend County

Diseases Notified to Texas DSHS	# of Investigations Completed in September 2018	# of Cases Notified to TX DSHS in September 2018	# of Investigations Completed from 01/01/2018 to 09/30/2018	# of Cases Notified to TX DSHS from 01/01/2018 to 09/30/2018
Campylobacteriosis	2	2	47	45
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteri-	4	4	56	52
Chikungunya virus disease	1	--	8	2
Cyclosporiasis	1	1	7	7
Dengue	2	-	14	-
Encephalitis, West Nile	2	2	2	2
Giardiasis	2	-	9	2
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive	1	1	13	12
Hepatitis A, acute	3	-	19	1
Hepatitis B virus infection, Chronic	9	-	96	-
Hepatitis B, acute	14	-	123	2
Hepatitis C Virus Infection, chronic or	2	-	26	-
Hepatitis C, acute	4	-	40	-
Influenza, human isolates	3	-	449	-
Lyme disease	4	-	40	-
Malaria	2	2	5	5
Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aure-	10	-	83	-
Multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter (MDR-	4	4	25	23
Mumps	2	1	5	2
Poliovirus infection nonparalytic	1	-	2	-
Rickettsia, unspecified	18	-	89	-
Rubella	3	-	15	-
Salmonellosis	21	-	100	-
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli	2	24	21	100
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	2	19	19
Streptococcus, invasive Group B	5	2	57	14
Typhoid fever (Salmonella typhi)	4	3	5	4
Typhus fever-fleaborne, murine	2	4	12	5
Varicella (Chickenpox)	11	-	104	26
Vibrio parahaemolyticus	1	1	1	1
Vibriosis, other or unspecified	1	1	1	1
West Nile Fever	5	-	15	-
Yersiniosis	1	-	5	3
Zika virus disease, congenital	1	-	1	-
Zika virus disease, non-congenital	16	-	3	1