



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

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## Acute Flaccid Myelitis Case Confirmed in Michigan

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently confirmed the first case of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) in Michigan, in a child from Wayne County. In addition, several other cases of AFM have also been confirmed in Michigan or are still under investigation. As of December 13th, the CDC has confirmed 158 cases of AFM in 36 states, mostly in children. Despite increases in cases across the country since 2014, the CDC estimates that less than one to two out of a million children in the United States will get AFM annually.

AFM is a rare but serious condition affecting the nervous system and can cause the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak. Most patients report having a mild respiratory illness or fever consistent with a viral infection prior to developing AFM. Health care providers are asked to report all suspect cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis to their local health department. In Livingston County, providers can call the Livingston County Health Department at (517) 546-9850 during regular business hours, or call 911 after hours to report any cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a job aid to assist clinicians and their staff in reporting suspect cases. This information can be found at [www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis](http://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis), and includes guidelines for specimen collection and information sharing about reporting a suspected AFM case to the health department.

For additional information, interested persons can visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website for Communicable Disease Information and Resources at [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs).

## RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (RPEP)

MDHHS has added RPEP to the mandated reporting list in 2019. Healthcare providers are required to report to Michigan local health departments any initiation of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis to an individual exposed or potentially exposed to rabies, whether through a bite or other type of exposure (e.g., a person wakes to a bat in the room where they were sleeping, bat found in a room with a child, or adult who cannot account for their time in the room with the bat).

The initiation of RPEP is a medical urgency, not an emergency. Before initiating treatment, healthcare providers should consider the rabies risk for each situation, including whether the exposing animal might be available for testing. Prompt reporting to the local health department aids in the investigation. LCHD is available Monday through Friday 8:00-5:00, and after hours and holidays through 911.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has revised the Michigan Reportable Disease List for 2019. To view the Health Care Professional's Guide to Disease Reporting in Michigan, including changes for 2019, go to: <https://bit.ly/2I8MvO3>

For questions, please feel free to call LCHD at 517-546-9850 and ask for the CD Nurse.

## Hepatitis C Update and Testing Recommendations

While great advancements in treatment have made hepatitis C infection curable in many cases, the number of acute and chronic cases reported in Livingston County and Michigan have continued to increase.

The increase in prevalence of HCV infection in women of childbearing age has resulted in a rise in perinatal HCV infections. Approximately 5-15 percent of all babies born to HCV-infected mothers will become infected. Unlike HBV and HIV, there are no known methods to prevent perinatal transmission. As of 2018, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) has begun to recommend universal testing of all pregnant women for HCV, particularly at the initiation of prenatal care. Those who report risk factors for HCV are especially encouraged to be tested. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has developed a HCV Screening Tool that can assist in determining who may need to be tested for HCV; it is available at <https://bit.ly/2tck7QC>.

MDHHS is encouraging clinicians to test infants born to HCV-infected mothers for HCV. As maternal HCV antibodies transfer efficiently from mother to baby and may not clear for up to 18 months, HCV RNA PCR testing for children between the ages of 2 and 18 months is recommended. HCV antibody testing should only be conducted in children greater than 18 months of age.

Data from the 2016 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, a state-specific telephone survey of those 18 and older, indicated that only 30% of the respondents 50-70 years old at the time of the survey stated they had ever been tested for HCV. CDC recommends testing those born between 1945-1965; this group comprises 3 of 4 HCV infections in the U.S. Remember to keep testing your Baby Boomer patients.

## Influenza Update

Influenza activity in Michigan is now considered widespread, the highest level of flu activity. The predominant strains circulating are A/H1N1, with some A/H3N2, and occasional influenza Bs.

There has been one (1) pediatric death from influenza in Michigan. As of February 7, 2019, there have been 132 lab confirmed cases of influenza reported to LCHD in 2019.

The MDHHS Michigan Flu Focus provides weekly influenza surveillance reports and is available at: <https://bit.ly/2Bqw61l>

## SHINGRIX VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Shingrix is currently the preferred shingles vaccine. Two doses of Shingrix vaccine, separated by 2 to 6 months, is recommended for adults age 50 years and older to prevent Herpes Zoster. According to the CDC, ordering limits and shipping delays currently exist for GlaxoSmithKline's Shingrix vaccine due to high demand.

Until the demand can be met, it is important that vaccine providers educate patients about the importance of completing the series. The CDC recommends that providers give first consideration to patients due for their second dose of Shingrix. Strategies to ensure vaccination include:

- Implement a vaccine reminder and recall system to contact patients, who are due for their second dose, when you have Shingrix supply.
- Refer the patient to another provider in the community (e.g., a pharmacy) that has Shingrix so the patient can complete the series.
- Be sure to enter your patient's current vaccination information into MCIR. This will ensure that every provider can access your patient's immunization record, and it may help facilitate patient reminders to complete the Shingrix series.

More information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2p1Hrhl>

**Call LCHD at (517) 546-9850 to report or consult about a communicable disease. We are available 24/7. If it is after business hours, call 911 and they will contact the appropriate staff.**