



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

### Public Health Advisory for Providers February 25, 2014

#### Acute flaccid Paralysis Cases in California

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has received several requests for testing of viral agents in cases of unexplained acute flaccid paralysis. Many of these cases are described as “polio-like” syndromes. Several features of these cases indicate an infectious etiology. Thus far, testing has not revealed a single etiology. Testing has been hampered by incomplete specimens, samples taken late after onset of symptoms, and serum draws after IV immunoglobulin has been administered.

Locally, the Public Health Department has not received any reports of cases within our county. However, we are supplying the case definition and lab submittal procedures for local providers in the event that we have a local case.

#### Case Definition

Patient (without prior neurologic illness) who presents with:

- Acute flaccid paralysis, including absent or significantly diminished reflexes in one or more limbs

**AND**

- EMG showing anterior horn cell disease

**OR**

- MRI showing grey matter involvement of the spinal cord
- With or without accompanying mental status changes

#### Actions Requested of all Clinicians

1. **Submit a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR)** to the Communicable Disease Unit of Santa Cruz County Public Health Department. To access the report, please go to: <http://www.santacruzhealth.org/pdf/PH%20Reporting/cdph110a.pdf>
2. To optimize laboratory testing, CDPH is requesting the following sample types, collected as close as possible to illness onset date:
  - ❑ Cerebrospinal fluid (2-3 cc, if available)
  - ❑ Acute phase serum, collected **prior to** treatment with IVIG (2-3 cc in red or tiger top tube)
  - ❑ Nasopharynx swab (in viral transport media)
  - ❑ Stool (quarter-sized amount in sterile wide-mouth container)

3. For more information, including shipping address for lab specimens, please visit:  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/pages/neurologicsurveillancetesting.aspx>

**It is essential** that a CMR be sent to the Communicable Disease Unit so that we may track cases. The CMR can be filled out online at:

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/pdf/PH%20Reporting/cdph110a.pdf>

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

