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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarpy/Cass Health Department Receives Confirmation of AFM

Since October, the Sarpy/Cass Health Department has been working together with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding two suspect cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM). The Department was notified today that one of these individuals has been confirmed with AFM by the CDC. The child was hospitalized, later released and is recovering at home.

"AFM is a rare but serious condition that mostly affects children," says Health Director Sarah Schram. "The Department is vigilant in investigating suspect cases to help gather information that can be passed on to our partners at DHHS and the CDC to assist in the study of this condition."

Symptoms of AFM include sudden weakness in the arms or legs and some individuals also experience facial or eye drooping, difficulty moving eyes or slurred speech. There is no vaccine or treatment available for AFM so Schram and other public health officials would advise parents to contact their health care provider as soon as possible if they would see potential symptoms of AFM in their child.

For those interested in learning more about AFM the CDC offers helpful resources at <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/index.html>.

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