



## What is AFM?

Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare but serious neurologic condition. It affects the nervous system, specifically the area of the spinal cord called gray matter. This causes the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak.

## What is a biorepository?

The term biorepository usually refers to a facility that collects and stores samples of biological material. This Biorepository will collect blood, stool, nasal/throat swabs, and any cerebrospinal fluid left over from previous collections.

## Who is eligible?

If a healthcare professional has told you that you or your child may have AFM, then you or your child may be able to take part. Contact us to see if you are eligible.

## What will I need to do?

You will be asked to sign a consent form and to have samples collected from you or your child two times. The first time will be shortly after admission to the hospital. The second time will take place in your home or similar location. The second time will be about four to eight weeks after you or your child had symptoms.

The first collection will include two tubes of blood, a stool sample, and a nose/throat swab. Less than 12 mL (about 2.5 teaspoons) of blood will be collected from children. About 20 mL (4 teaspoons) of blood will be collected from adults. We will also ask to get any cerebrospinal fluid left over from the tests you or your child had done as part of your diagnosis. The second collection will include two tubes of blood. The total amount of blood will be the same as the first collection for both children and adults. We will make an appointment for a medical professional to come to your home or similar location to collect samples at a time that works for you.

## How to reach us?

You can call us toll free at 855-874-6912 or email us at [AFMproject@secure.mcking.com](mailto:AFMproject@secure.mcking.com) for more information or to take part.