Investigation and reporting of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) in children <15 years of age

**Virology examination of stool**
- Collect 2 stool specimens as soon as possible, 24 hours apart, within two weeks of onset of paralysis and sent to National Virus Reference Lab (NVRL) and state on form “INVESTIGATION OF AFP-ENTEROVIRAL TESTING, SEND TO NVRL”
- Collect throat swab/nasopharyngeal swab/aspirate

**Paediatric neurology referral**
- Most cases should be referred to paediatric neurologists for further diagnostic tests

**Complete AFP enhanced surveillance form (clinical details)**
- The form is available online at [http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vaccinepreventable/polio/surveillanceforms/](http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vaccinepreventable/polio/surveillanceforms/)
- Complete form and return to Dr Suzanne Cotter, HPSC, 25-27 Middle Gardiner Street, Dublin 1, by fax (01 856 1299) OR scan and email to paula.flanagan@hse.ie

**Report to Irish Paediatric Surveillance Unit (IPSU)**
- When returning your monthly IPSU card/email tick the AFP box and indicate that surveillance forms have been completed and returned

**What happens next?**
- The NVRL will return the results to the hospital and clinician
- The National Polio Expert Committee will review the results

**More information:**
HPSC: www.hpsc.ie (T: 01 876 5300)
NVRL: (T: 01 716 4401)

**AFP:** a clinical syndrome characterised by rapid onset of weakness, including (less frequently) weakness of respiratory and swallowing, progressing to maximum severity within several days to weeks. The term “flaccid” indicates the absence of spasticity or other signs of disordered central nervous system motor tracts such as hyperreflexia, clonus, or extensor plantar responses.