



County of Sacramento

BOTULISM ADVISORY
May 8, 2017

Situational Update

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in collaboration with Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and neighboring counties, is investigating a small cluster of hospitalized patients with botulism. These patients had illness onset during April 20–26, 2017. Four of five cases reported eating prepared food from the Valley Oak Food and Fuel gas station in Walnut Grove. Public health officials are still working to identify other potential source(s). Please see actions requested of clinicians at this time below:

Actions Requested of All Clinicians:

2. **Report** all patients with suspect botulism to SCPH immediately via phone call (916) 875-5881 AND electronically via CalREDIE or via confidential fax (916) 854-9709.
3. **Exercise increased vigilance** in promptly identifying suspected botulism patients and taking appropriate action.

Clinical manifestations of botulism are characterized by acute onset of bilateral cranial neuropathies including ptosis, blurry vision, dryness of the mouth, dysarthria, dysphonia, difficulty swallowing, and facial weakness, followed by descending weakness including neck weakness, difficulty breathing, trunk and extremity weakness. Fever is usually absent. Patients remain alert and responsive with no sensory deficits. Death may occur from respiratory failure thus immediate medical attention is imperative.

If diagnosed early, Botulism can be treated with an antitoxin made from horse serum which blocks the action of toxin circulating in the blood. This can prevent patients from worsening but cannot reverse the paralysis.

For more information, please call SCPH Disease Control at (919) 875-5881 Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm.

Sincerely,

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer