

TN Health Alert Network Communication: Botulism-Like Illness After Cosmetic Injections
April 10, 2024

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and multiple other states to investigate botulism-like illness after reported botulinum toxin injections for cosmetic purposes. Botulinum toxin or “Botox” injections are typically regarded as safe therapy. However, administration with counterfeit product, improper technique, or incorrect dosage has resulted in botulism-like illness. TDH is communicating with medical providers to facilitate identification of recent cases of botulism-like illness following botulinum toxin injections and reduce the risk of misdiagnoses and worsening symptoms. Clinicians who identify botulism-like illness should **notify the Tennessee Department of Health** at 615-741-7247.

Recommendations to Identify and Inform:

1. *Identify* – Clinicians should maintain high suspicion for botulism-like illness in individuals who present with consistent signs and symptoms. If botulism-like illness is identified, patients should be asked about **any recent botulinum toxin injections**.
2. *Inform* – Clinicians should report suspected botulism-like illnesses to **the Tennessee Department of Health at 615-741-7247**. TDH can help determine whether testing or anti-toxin is indicated.

For more information:

- TDH [statement](#) about the ongoing investigation into cases of botulism-like illness following cosmetic injections.
 - [Reportable Diseases \(tn.gov\)](#)
 - [Botulism](#) CDC
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