

Health Advisory: Update on Suspected Local Human Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) Activity, 13 SEPT, 2014

Action requested:

- **Be aware that suspected cases of EV-D68 activity are being reported locally among children hospitalized with severe respiratory illness (wheezing, hypoxemia, difficulty breathing) with and without fever.**
- **In states where EV-D68 has been confirmed, it has caused spikes in ED visits and hospitalizations for respiratory infections in children, particularly among children with asthma and underlying lung diseases.**
- **Consider enterovirus testing for children hospitalized with *severe respiratory illness of uncertain cause*.**
- **Healthcare facilities should report unusual increases in respiratory illnesses among children and cases of severe respiratory illness with positive screening tests for enterovirus/rhinovirus to Public Health at 206-296-4774.**
- **Children with severe respiratory illness and a positive enterovirus/rhinovirus screening test can be tested for EV-D68 by contacting Public Health.**
- **Children with acute neurological disease (E.g., aseptic meningitis) of unknown etiology should be reported to Public Health to assess need for EV-D68 testing.**
- **Children with non-severe illness do NOT need to be tested for EV-D68.**
- **Healthcare facilities and providers should be prepared for management of a surge of pediatric patients with respiratory illnesses and asthma exacerbations, including outpatient and ED visits and hospitalizations.**
- **All healthcare providers should ensure their asthmatic patients adhere to an asthma control plan, are instructed in how to manage worsening symptoms, and seek medical attention promptly if symptoms do not respond to treatment.**

Infection control guidance: The routes of transmission for EV-D68 are not fully understood. Infection control guidelines for hospitalized patients with EV-D68 infection should include **standard and droplet precautions, with contact precautions in certain situations** (<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>). Although there are no official changes in CDC guidance on hand hygiene for healthcare providers, **hand washing should be encouraged** as alcohol gels are less active against enteroviruses.

As EV-D68 is a non-enveloped virus, **environmental disinfection of surfaces in healthcare settings should be performed using a hospital-grade disinfectant with an EPA label claim for any of several non-enveloped viruses (e.g. norovirus, poliovirus, rhinovirus)**. Disinfectant products should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the specific label claim and in a manner consistent with environmental infection control recommendations (http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/eic_in_HCF_03.pdf).

Background

An unusual increase in the number of children hospitalized with severe respiratory illness and with positive screening tests for enterovirus/rhinovirus has been reported in King County. Testing of the cases for EV-D68 has been requested from CDC and results should be available in the coming week. Additional suspected cases have been reported from other counties in the state. Enteroviruses are associated with various clinical symptoms, from mild to severe. EV-D68 causes primarily respiratory illness, although the full spectrum of disease remains unclear. There are no available vaccines or specific treatments for EV-D68, and clinical care is supportive. Non-severely ill patients do not need to be tested for enterovirus infection.

Prevention messages for the public:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diaper
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick
- Do not attend school, child care, or work if ill with a respiratory infection until symptoms have completely resolved
- No special testing or evaluation is needed for non-severely ill patients

For more information:

- CDC enterovirus D68 website (multiple resources for public and healthcare providers):
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>
- Public Health EV-D68 information, including FAQ:
 - <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/providers.aspx>