

Facts about Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) for School Nurses

What are Enteroviruses?

Enteroviruses are common viruses that often occur during the summer and fall months. Most people infected with enteroviruses do not have symptoms or only mild flu-like symptoms.

What is Enterovirus D68?

EV-D68 is one of 100 enteroviruses. EV-D68 infection is thought to occur less commonly than infections with other enteroviruses.



Who is at risk?

Infants, children, and teenagers are most at risk for enteroviruses and may become ill. They are at increased risk because they have not yet acquired immunity from previous exposures. It is more serious for children with asthma and/or other respiratory diseases.

How is it spread?

It can spread through contact with infected people and is likely to spread from person- to -person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. The virus can be found in secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus, sputum, and probably stools. There is no vaccine for preventing EV-D68 infection. To minimize the spread of infection, encourage staff and students to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue, wash hands often, avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

What are the symptoms?

The virus can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, especially in people with asthma and/or other respiratory diseases. Other symptoms can include fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and body and muscle aches. Severe symptoms may include difficulty breathing and wheezing. **People with asthma may have a higher risk for severe respiratory illness.**



When should you send a child home?

Send a child home when they show signs of serious respiratory symptoms or has a fever. For any child that is sick or experiencing symptoms, take the following precautions:

- Isolate a sick child until they are picked up from school.
- Reinforce prevention measures with parents and caregivers.
- Give parents a copy of the “Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers”.

What to do if a child is ill and/or has difficulty breathing?

Recommend that parents or caregivers seek medical attention immediately.

For more information visit
www.cdc.gov or www.ongov.net/health

Sources: New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)