



Office of Student Health and Wellness


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Network Chiefs, Principals, Assistant Principals, and School Nurses

Cc: Denise Little, Chief Officer, Office of Network Support
Tracy Martin-Thompson, Chief Officer, Strategic School Supports & Services
Dr. Markay Winston, Chief Officer, Diverse Learner Supports and Services

FROM: Stephanie A. Whyte, MD, MBA, Chief Health Officer 

DATE: September 9, 2014

RE: Position Statement related to Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)

Enterovirus D68 is a virus that causes a mild to severe respiratory illness. Recently, hospitals in Missouri and Illinois are seeing more children than usual with severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68. Similar to the flu, children with underlying respiratory conditions like asthma are at more risk for severe illness.

Symptoms

- EV-D68 has been reported to cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Many will have symptoms like a cold. These symptoms include runny nose, sneezing, coughing and body aches.

Transmission

- The virus can be found in respiratory secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. It likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces.

Treatment

- There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections.
 - Many infections will be mild and self-limited, requiring only treatment of the symptoms.
 - Some people with severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 may need to be hospitalized and receive intensive supportive therapy.

Prevention

- You can help protect yourself from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
 - 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
 - If sick, stay home so you don't get other people sick. Children with asthma should maintain their current regimens and contact their healthcare providers if there are any problems.

Attached is a handout from the Chicago Department of Public Health for parents and staff on EV-D68.