



HEALTH ALERT ENTEROVIRUS D68

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Non-polio enteroviruses are very common viruses. They cause about 10 to 15 million infections in the United States each year. Many people are hospitalized each year for illnesses caused by enteroviruses. **Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)** is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. Anyone can get infected with non-polio enteroviruses. **But infants, children, and teenagers are more likely to get infected and become sick.** That's because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to the viruses.

Since **EV-D68** causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. **EV-D68** likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. You can also get infected by touching objects or surfaces that have the virus on them then **touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.**

Children with ASTHMA may have a higher risk for severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 infection!

SYMPTOMS include the following:

EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness.

- *Mild* symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches.
- *Severe* symptoms may include **wheezing** and **difficulty breathing**.

If you notice any of these symptoms, please call your doctor for directions for care.

You can help protect yourself and others from **EV-D68** infections by:

- Washing 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
- Disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick
- Keeping your child home if (s)he is sick

REMEMBER!!! You can help stop the spread of **ENTEROVIRUS D68** by notifying your child's school, school nurse, doctor and anyone else with whom your child has had any contact.

Please see the Genesee County Health Department website at www.gchd.us for more information.

Thank you!