

Alabama Department of Public Health  
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT) Health Alert Network (HAN)

**Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) and Acute Neurologic Illness**

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Epidemiology Division (EPI), is clarifying two ongoing, but separate, requests for reporting infections of public health importance, Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) and Acute Neurologic Illness (ANI).

Neurologic illness with muscle weakness can result from a variety of noninfectious and infectious causes, including Guillain-Barre syndrome, enterovirus (polio and non-polio); adenovirus; West Nile virus and similar viruses; and herpesviruses. Enteroviruses are known to be one of the causes of neurologic illness in children. Enteroviruses most commonly cause aseptic meningitis, less commonly encephalitis, and rarely, acute myelitis and paralysis.

CDC is aware of two published reports of children with neurologic illnesses confirmed as enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) infection from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) testing. CDC has requested reporting of other similar neurologic illnesses in all states, especially cases clustered in time and place, with particular interest in characterizing the epidemiology, clinical picture, and causes of such cases.

**Report Acute Neurologic Illness (ANI)**

Providers who have any patients who meet the following case definition:

- Patients  $\leq 21$  years of age with
- acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on or after August 1, 2014 and
- MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter.

Providers must immediately report the case to EPI at 1-800-338-8374, complete the [ANI Patient Summary Form](#), and fax it to 334-206-3734.

**Report Cluster of Enterovirus**

Providers who have clusters of patients who meet the following criteria:

- Severe respiratory illness with unknown cause and
- Initial positive test for enterovirus/rhinovirus.

Providers must within 24-hours report clusters of severe enterovirus to EPI at 1-800-338-8374, complete the [EV-D68 Patient Summary Forms](#), and fax it to 334-206-3734.

**Discuss hospitalized patient specimen submission with EPI when reporting cases of ANI or clusters of Enterovirus.**