

Enterovirus D68 Flyer

Is Enterovirus a new disease?

- No, enteroviruses are very common, especially in children.
- There are over 100 types of enteroviruses.
- Enterovirus D68 was first identified in 1962.

Why are we concerned about Enterovirus D68 now?

- In the past, Enterovirus D68 has been found to cause respiratory illnesses.
- This summer, children's hospitals in Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri have reported more children coming to the emergency room or being hospitalized with respiratory illnesses.
- This increase in illness was reported to health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and further testing showed many of the ill children had Enterovirus D68.
- More doctors across the country are now seeing illness possibly related to Enterovirus D68.

What are health departments and the CDC doing to find out more about Enterovirus D68?

- Alabama doctors have been asked to report clusters of Enterovirus D68 to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) for investigation.
- ADPH and CDC are recommending that doctors consider testing patients with severe respiratory illness for enterovirus and rhinovirus.
- Initial screening for enterovirus and rhinovirus can be done as part of a respiratory panel by most hospitals and reference laboratories. Testing for Enterovirus D68 is done by CDC.

What are some of the symptoms of Enterovirus D68?

- Patients reported symptoms such as:
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Wheezing
 - Low oxygen, requiring breathing machines
 - Abnormal chest x-ray.
 - Additional signs and symptoms may be reported by doctors.



Do all children with respiratory illness need to be tested for Enterovirus D68?

- No, only children who have severe respiratory symptoms as determined by their doctor need to be tested.

How do doctors treat Enterovirus D68?

- Treatment is supportive for respiratory symptoms.
- Doctors will treat the patient based on what the patient needs. For example, some of the treatments have included hospitalization with treatments of wheezing with asthma medicines and oxygen.

Have the children treated for Enterovirus D68 recovered?

- At this time, all children treated for Enterovirus D68 have recovered or are recovering.
- CDC and ADPH are not aware of any deaths associated with this virus, but continue to be concerned.

Is there a vaccine or antiviral medicine for Enterovirus D68?

- There is not a vaccine for Enterovirus D68, because there are many enteroviruses.
- There is currently no antiviral medicine approved for treatment of Enterovirus D68.

What can I do to protect my children and myself from Enterovirus D68?

- To reduce all forms of respiratory illness, people should do the following:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, including 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.
 - Stay home if you or a family member is ill.
 - If you or a family member has severe respiratory symptoms, please contact your doctor and follow his/her advice.

How can I find out more about Enterovirus D68?

- ADPH, CDC, and many specialty doctor groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are providing information on their websites and through news releases.

Where can I find more information?

- Go to cdc.gov and type Enterovirus D68 in SEARCH box.

