



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Respiratory Illness (Enterovirus D68)

Hospitals in several surrounding states are seeing more children than usual with severe respiratory illness caused by Enterovirus D68 (EVD68). Several other states are investigating clusters of children with severe respiratory illness, possibly due to Enterovirus D68. Most people infected with enteroviruses have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can be serious. Enteroviruses are very common viruses; more than 100 types are known. Each year, an estimated 10 to 15 million enterovirus infections occur in the United States.

Infants, children, and teenagers are most likely to get infected and become ill from enteroviruses; children with asthma are at a higher risk for hospitalization. Most enterovirus infections in the U.S. occur seasonally during the summer and fall.

### Treatment

Treat the symptoms.

- Fever
- Cough
- Wheezing
- Flu-like symptoms
- Children with cold like symptoms that experience difficulty breathing, are asked to **consult with their medical provider for further evaluation.**

### Prevention

Vaccines for preventing EV-D68 infections currently are not available.

To help reduce the risk of infection with EV-D68, NCDHD recommends the following:

- 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;
- Stay home when feeling sick, and obtain consultation from your health care provider.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm63e0908a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm63e0908a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm63e0908a1.htm?s_cid=mm63e0908a1_e)