

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH ALERT NUMBER WV0090-09-11-2014

Distributed via the WV Health Alert Network –September 11, 2014



Respiratory Illnesses Due to Enterovirus

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: September 11, 2014

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has notified states of cases of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) occurring in children. Currently there have been no confirmed cases of EV-D68 reported in West Virginia. Enteroviruses are very common viruses. There are more than 100 types of enteroviruses. Most people infected with enteroviruses have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can be serious. EV-D68 infections occur less commonly than those with other enteroviruses. EV-D68 is associated with a mild to severe respiratory illness. New onsets of breathing difficulties, wheezing or asthma exacerbation are notable symptoms; however, the full spectrum of EV-D68 is unknown.

Enterovirus infections including EV-D68 are not reportable in West Virginia. However, clusters/outbreaks of respiratory illnesses are required to be reported to your local health department immediately. The Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) has the capacity to test for enteroviruses in cluster/outbreak situations.

There are no available vaccines or specific treatment for EV-D68 infections, and clinical care is supportive. Clinicians should be aware of EV-D68 as one of the many causes of viral respiratory disease and should report clusters of respiratory illness to their local health department.

In addition to standard precautions, contact precautions are recommended for *hospitalized* infants and young children for the duration of illness.

To help reduce the risk of infection with EV-D68, healthcare professionals should recommend the following:

- Wash hands often with warm water and soap 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.

For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

Page 1 of 2

West Virginia Health Advisory Number **WV0090-09-11-2014**

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.
Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.