WEST VIRGINIA
Department of
Health & Human Resources
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #0104

Outbreak of Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis Due to Adenovirus Kanawha County Area

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

FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: September 19, 2015

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

Please immediately notify your local health department of suspected EKC cases since July 29, 2015. EKC is an acute eye infection that can cause corneal scaring. It is characterized by lacrimation, florid conjunctival injection with edema and even membrane formation, eye pain and photophobia; recovery is often prolonged. It is spread easily via fomite transmission and person-to-person contact. Adenovirus has an incubation period of 5-12 days, and the contagious period starts from late in the incubation period to two weeks after onset (prolonged viral shedding has been reported). Adenovirus has very low infectious dose and is hardy in the environment, making the healthcare setting a common site of transmission of disease.

Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Settings: For routine infection prevention measures, please see CDC's Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care (http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-settings.html).

Additional Guidance during Suspected Outbreaks of Healthcare-Associated EKC:
- Healthcare professionals with suspected conjunctivitis should be excluded from patient contact for at least 14 days after onset of symptoms.
- Cohort patients with suspected EKC. Designate separate sign-in sheets, pens, exam rooms, waiting areas, and exam equipment for patients with symptoms of conjunctivitis.
- Wear gloves when examining patients with eye symptoms or contacts of patients with eye symptoms, and perform proper hand hygiene before and after patient contact; do not use the same pair of gloves for more than one patient.
- During the outbreak, do not use contents from eye drop bottles for more than one patient to avoid possible contamination of medication stock bottles.
- Avoid tonometry except when medically necessary. Clean and disinfect tonometer tips between patients according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean and disinfect reusable medical equipment between patients according to manufacturer's instructions (NOTE: Bleach solution is effective against Adenovirus but may not be compatible with all medical equipment. 70% Isopropyl alcohol and 3% hydrogen peroxide are not effective against EKC from adenovirus.)
- Clean and disinfect exam room surfaces and other high-touch areas between patients using an EPA-registered disinfectant with proven efficacy against Adenovirus. Ensure the product is used according to manufacturer's instructions (including sufficient surface contact time, etc.).
- Avoid shaking hands with patients suspected of having EKC.
- If consultation is required, please alert consulting clinic of presumed EKC diagnosis so appropriate precautions are implemented at initial patient contact.

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

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