



September 11, 2014

**LACDPH Health Advisory:
Enterovirus 68 (EV-D68)**

This message is intended for primary care, urgent care, emergency medicine, pediatric medicine, and infectious disease providers. Please distribute as appropriate.

Situation

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to alert healthcare providers about Enterovirus 68 (EV-D68), which is currently causing an outbreak in parts of the United States, primarily in the pediatric population ([MMWR, September 8, 2014](#)). Several children have required hospitalization within intensive care units and some have required mechanical ventilation. Currently no outbreaks have been reported in Los Angeles County (LAC) or California.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are interested in investigating the spectrum of clinical illness since much is still unknown, including whether or not disease is present in adults or immunocompromised individuals.

Key communication

EV-D68 causes symptoms associated with respiratory illness:

- **Currently associated with pediatric patients**
- **Patients with asthma or other pulmonary disease are at increased risk**
- **There is no vaccine or specific therapy for EV-D68**
- **May cause additional conditions such as severe acute respiratory illness (SARI), viral pneumonia, or reactive airway disease especially in those with underlying respiratory conditions**
- **Many cases have no documented fever associated with illness**

Actions requested of providers

While individual cases of enterovirus are not reportable, healthcare providers should consider EV-D68 in clusters of patients with severe respiratory illness of unknown etiology and report suspected outbreaks. There is no specific treatment for EV-D68; therefore management of care

should focus on symptomatic care. Most enterovirus infections however, are mild and illness is self-limiting.

Infection Control

- Standard contact and droplet precautions should be implemented
- Wash hands with soap and water as alcohol hand sanitizers are ineffective against enteroviruses
- Bleach is an effective disinfectant for surfaces
- Ill persons should stay home from school or work

Laboratory/Specimen Collection

- Testing will be coordinated with the LAC Public Health Laboratory and California Department of Public Health.
- Acceptable specimens are nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) swabs or other respiratory tract specimens
- Testing criteria include: cases of severe respiratory infections, especially those in pediatric intensive care units who have already tested positive for entero/rhinoviruses OR those involved in suspected respiratory outbreaks of unknown etiology.

Report suspected cases of EV-D68 to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:

- On weekdays, between 8:00 am-5:00 pm, call the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at (213) 240-7941.
- During non-business hours (before 8:00 am, after 5:00 pm, or weekends), call the Los Angeles County Operator at (213) 974-1234 and ask for the Public Health doctor on-call.

To report suspect cases in the cities of Long Beach or Pasadena, contact their local health departments at the following numbers, 24 hours/day:

- Long Beach HD: (562) 570-4000
- Pasadena HD: (626) 744-6043

Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) webpages: at <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>

This Health Advisory was sent by Dr. Laurene Mascola, Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Please visit our LAHAN webpage to view this and other communications:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan>