



Health Advisory: Enterovirus D68

Minnesota Department of Health Tue Sep 09 14:35 CDT 2014

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals and clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospital and clinics: Please distribute to healthcare professionals who might treat patients.

Healthcare providers:

- Consider other causes of severe acute respiratory illnesses in addition to Enterovirus D68
- Use Standard and Droplet precautions (face mask plus eye protection) when evaluating patients
- Be aware that clinical care is supportive, there are no specific treatments for Enterovirus D68
- Recognize that clinically available testing for enteroviruses detects all types of enteroviruses and does not specifically indicate Enterovirus D68
- Promote to patients: hand washing with soap and water, covering their cough, staying home when sick, and getting the flu shot

Several states have reported an increase in severe acute respiratory infections, in addition to an increase in hospitalizations. Initial testing in some states suggests increased clusters of Enterovirus D68.

MDH has not detected Enterovirus D68 yet this season; however, recent reports from hospitals in MN suggest an increase in acute respiratory infections.

While Enterovirus D68 is not a reportable disease; MDH performs surveillance for respiratory illness throughout the year. Our surveillance has detected sporadic Enterovirus D68 infections during late August and early September since 2011.

In other states, reported cases of Enterovirus D68 thus far, are primarily affecting children and cause respiratory illness including difficulty breathing, hypoxemia, and wheezing. Infected individuals generally recover with supportive care. However, some individuals, especially those with weakened immune systems or medical conditions, such as asthma, may experience severe complications and require hospitalization with supportive therapy.

No change in testing for enterovirus is recommended; if clinical enterovirus testing is desired in severe cases of suspected enterovirus infection, providers should send specimens to their regular reference lab for viral culture or enterovirus PCR. If the testing is positive for enterovirus, MDH PHL will accept specimens and perform further enterovirus subtyping for epidemiological surveillance purposes. Please refer to the MDH Guide to Services website for submission information:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/clin/gts/testse.html#enterovirus>

For more information please visit

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/respiratory/index.html> or call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5569 or 1-877-676-5414.