

Cover Sheet

DATE: September 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Enterovirus EV-D68 Montana Recommendations

INSTRUCTIONS:

REDISTRIBUTE AT YOUR DISCRETION. Share this information with relevant SMEs or contacts (internal and external) as you see fit.

For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**DPHHS CDCP
Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

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AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR OWN**

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919

Information Sheet

Date: September 11, 2014

Subject: Enterovirus EV-D68 Recommendations

Background: State and local public health agencies are receiving calls from the public, providers, and press regarding Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). At this time, clusters have been reported in several states in the mid-west. Enteroviruses are associated with various clinical symptoms, including mild respiratory illness, febrile rash illness, and neurologic illness, such as aseptic meningitis and encephalitis. EV-D68, however, primarily causes respiratory illness, although the full spectrum of disease remains unclear. EV-D68 is identified using molecular techniques at a limited number of laboratories in the United States. Since the original isolation of EV-D68 in California in 1962 (2), EV-D68 has been reported rarely in the United States; the National Enterovirus Surveillance System received 79 EV-D68 reports during 2009–2013. Small clusters of EV-D68 associated with respiratory illness were reported in the United States during 2009–2010. There are no available vaccines or specific treatments for EV-D68, and clinical care is supportive.

Information: At this time, no clusters or outbreaks have been confirmed in Montana. A single case in a child hospitalized with underlying medical conditions has been confirmed as EV-D68. However, since enteroviruses are common causes of respiratory infections, we assume that the virus is circulating in other areas of the state. Enterovirus infections, including EV-D68, are not specifically reportable, however, clusters/outbreaks are reportable in Montana to local public health authorities. DPHHS and local public health authorities will continue to share information as the situation evolves.

Recommendations:

Health Departments:

- 1) Although individual cases of enterovirus are not specifically reportable, remind providers that any clusters/outbreaks of illnesses are reportable and basic information such as names, ages, condition (hospitalized or not-hospitalized) and any testing information should be reported to you.
- 2) In addition, hospitalized cases may be of interest and we encourage you to work with your hospitals to monitor admissions for severe respiratory illnesses and share that information with DPHHS.
- 3) Inform DPHHS CDEpi of any reported clusters/outbreaks of respiratory illnesses and we will provide consultation and support regarding the need for further testing. At the present time, the The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MPHL) is sending samples to CDC to facilitate quicker testing. The MPHL can culture and identify Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) but the process takes time and CDC may be able to provide a quicker result.

Similar to many other viruses causing respiratory illnesses, there is no specific treatment for enteroviruses. Remind callers and schools to practice good respiratory hygiene as recommended by the CDC:

You can help protect yourself from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- 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
- 4) Many local hospitals have the ability to identify enteroviruses but will not be able to specify EV-D68 specifically. DPHHS would consider a cluster of respiratory illnesses with at least one testing positive for enterovirus as a suspect. More specific testing would be required to confirm EV-D68. Please consult with CDEpi regarding the need and support for further testing.
 - 5) We strongly suggest communicating basic prevention messages to schools. As respiratory season approaches, the same steps will help prevent the spread of influenza and other respiratory conditions.
 - 6) DPHHS will share information via email with health department contacts as clusters/outbreaks and hospitalizations are identified and reported. Our focus will not be on individual cases. Since enteroviruses are common and many cases will not require care, it should be assumed that cases are in the community and prevention messages should be stressed.

Health care Providers:

Health care providers should consider EV-D68 as a possible cause of acute, unexplained severe respiratory illness. **Individual cases of enterovirus are not reportable**, however, suspected **clusters or outbreaks should be reported to local or state health departments**. More information is available at www.dphhs.mt.gov

- 1) Be aware of EV-D68 as a potential cause of clusters of severe respiratory illness, particularly in young children.
- 2) Consider laboratory testing of respiratory specimens for enteroviruses when the cause of infection in severely ill patients is unclear. The MTPHL can be contacted regarding Enterovirus diagnostic testing and typing confirmation at 1-800-821-7284.
- 3) Report hospitalized cases and clusters/outbreaks of severe respiratory illnesses to your local health departments for further guidance.

Laboratory:

The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) has distributed some key points regarding the diagnostic testing for this virus:

- 1) The appropriate specimen for Enterovirus testing is a nasopharyngeal or throat swab collected in universal transport media (UTM), transported in a cold condition. Stool specimens in UTM can also be submitted; this is recommended if the date of onset is greater than one week.
- 2) Currently the MTPHL has the capability of identifying Enterovirus D68 by culture, with typing performed by neutralization. This works well, but it can take days to weeks for a result. The MTPHL is also developing the capability to perform testing on our molecular platform, which will detect Enterovirus D68 and other Enteroviruses, but does not differentiate between the various types.
- 3) MTPHL can refer Enterovirus positive specimens/isolates to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for molecular typing of EV-D68.
- 4) Some laboratories in Montana have the FilmArray instrument from BioFire, which has the capability of detecting Enterovirus D68, but cannot differentiate between Rhinovirus and Enterovirus. Until further notice, please refer to the MTPHL those specimens that test positive for Rhinovirus / Enterovirus on hospitalized pediatric patients or other highly suspect hospitalized cases to determine whether Enterovirus D68 is the cause of the infection. Consult with CDEpi or the MTPHL prior to submitting specimens. DPHHS staff will assess for further testing. Mark on the request form "Bill to Epi" so that the cost of testing is waived.