

In response to concerns, we have sought and received guidance from the Albany County Department of Health regarding reports of enterovirus D68. Please read the attached information and remember that handwashing is the single most effective way to limit the spread of illness.

Enteroviruses

- Enteroviruses are very common viruses; there are more than 100 types.
- It is estimated that 10 to 15 million enterovirus infections occur in the United States each year.
- Most people infected with enteroviruses have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can be serious.
- Infants, children, and teenagers are most likely to get infected with enteroviruses and become sick.
- Most enterovirus infections in the United States occur seasonally during the summer and fall.

Enterovirus D68

- Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) infections are thought to occur less commonly than infections with other enteroviruses.

Symptoms

- EV-D68 usually can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. However, the full spectrum of EV-D68 illness is not well-defined.

Transmission

- EV-D68, like other enteroviruses, appears to spread through close contact with infected people.

Treatment

- There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections.
 - Many infections will be mild and self-limited, requiring only treatment of the symptoms.
 - Some people with severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 may need to be hospitalized and receive intensive supportive therapy.
- No anti-viral medications are currently available for treating of EV-D68 infections.

Prevention

- There are no vaccines for preventing EV-D68 infections.
- Ways to help reduce the risk of getting infected with EV-D68:
 - 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