



Genesee County Health Department

Mark Valacak, M.P.H., Health Officer
Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 2, 2014

END DATE: October 3, 2014

CONTACT: Shurooq Hasan, MPH
Epidemiologist

PHONE: (810) 257-3815

RE: Enterovirus D68

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has received numerous reports involving an increase in severe respiratory illness in children ages 5-17 throughout the state. The Genesee County Health Department is working with MDCH to investigate the cases and determine if there is any association with the nationwide Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). MDCH will be forwarding samples for testing to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of October 1st, 2014, there have been 25 confirmed cases of EV-D68 in Michigan, out 34 people tested, and only 1 confirmed case in Genesee County. As the results of the laboratory tests from the CDC are returned, the number of confirmed cases is expected to increase statewide.

Clusters of EV-D68 are being reported throughout many states nationwide. EV-D68 can occur in all populations but has mainly impacted children under the age of 18. Those who have a previous medical history of asthma or wheezing are more susceptible to contracting EV-D68.

Enteroviruses are very common viruses, causing 10-15 million infections each year. Most people infected with enterovirus have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can result in hospitalization due to their serious nature. Enterovirus is transmitted through close contact with an infected person such as touching or through coming in contact with a contaminated object.

Better Life Through Better Health

Floyd J. McCree Courts & Human Services Building ♦ 630 S. Saginaw Street, Ste. 4 ♦ Flint, Michigan 48502-1540

Burton Branch ♦ G-3373 S. Saginaw Street ♦ Burton, Michigan 48529

Main Phone 810-257-3612 ♦ Visit us at: www.gchd.us

Symptoms of EV-D68 can include fever, cough, new onset wheezing, difficulty breathing and racing heart rate. If symptoms persist or become severe it is important to notify the family physician or go to the emergency room.

Enteroviruses are known to be one of the causes of acute neurologic disease in children, such as aseptic meningitis. Less commonly, they can cause encephalitis and rarely acute myelitis and paralysis. In Michigan, of the 25 confirmed cases, only 1 patient has developed lower extremity paralysis.

Currently, there are no antiviral medications or vaccines available for treatment for EV-D68. Although there is no specific treatment, supportive care can be provided and steps can be taken in order to prevent spread and limit exposure. Those with asthma are encouraged to take caution when taking their asthma medications. Michigan residents can protect themselves by taking general hygiene precautions.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, shaking hands, 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
- Stay home when feeling sick, and talk with your doctor
- Cover your cough

Additional information about human EV-D68 can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html>