

September 8, 2014



## Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) Guidance

**Target audience:** Clinical laboratories

### Background:

- Enteroviruses are associated with various clinical symptoms, including mild respiratory illness, febrile rash illness, and neurologic illness, such as aseptic meningitis and encephalitis. Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), primarily causes respiratory illness, although the full spectrum of disease remains unclear.
- EV-D68 had previously been a rare cause of respiratory disease. In the past few years, a large increase in respiratory illnesses associated with EV-D68 has been reported in North America, Europe and Asia.
- Recent reports indicate increases in severe respiratory illness in pediatric (non-neonatal) children associated with EV-D68 infection. Original reports described clusters of illness in Kansas City, Missouri. Other reports have since come from St. Louis and Denver.
- Michigan Disease Syndromic Surveillance System has detected an increase in emergency department visits over this past weekend due to respiratory illness in children/adolescents ages 5-17. A number of healthcare facilities have also reported suspect cases or clusters of illness in Michigan.
- Signs and symptoms associated with current cases include: wheezing, difficulty breathing, hypoxia, fever and tachycardia. All of those patients required intensive care with supplemental oxygen. The majority had a previous medical history of asthma or prior wheezing, but approximately one third had no reported underlying respiratory illness. Investigations of suspected clusters from other jurisdictions are ongoing.
- Person to person transmission occurs through close contact; contact with feces, saliva, respiratory secretions, or blister fluids; or by objects contaminated with the virus. The virus can be shed for several weeks.

### Laboratory Testing for Enterovirus D68:

***Authorization for testing is required. Please contact MDCH Bureau of Disease Control, Prevention and Epidemiology at 517-335-8165. After Hours call: 517-335-9030***

- Currently, testing is being performed by CDC.
- Specimens should be submitted to MDCH Bureau of Laboratories and will be shipped to CDC.k

### Preferred Specimens for Enterovirus D68:

- NP swabs (preferred) in viral transport
- ½ - 1ml Serum
- Cerebral spinal fluid, if neurological symptoms are present

### Steps for laboratories to take now:

- No action is required at this time. Please monitor the situation and be aware of current guidance.
- Share this information with others in your facility.

### Questions and additional information:

For laboratory related questions, please contact:

Dr. Janice Matthews-Greer, Virology Section Manager

[MatthewsGreerJ@michigan.gov](mailto:MatthewsGreerJ@michigan.gov)

(517) 335-8063 (during normal business hours)