



COLORADO

Office of Communications

Department of Public Health & Environment

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Statement on enterovirus

Testing by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory has confirmed 19 of 25 specimens submitted by Children's Hospital Colorado tested positive for enterovirus-D68, an uncommon respiratory virus. Investigation into this outbreak is ongoing, and the department is working with Colorado hospitals and the CDC.

Recent reports in the Denver area and other cities across the country have called attention to an increase in pediatric patients with severe respiratory illness and asthma exacerbation. Some patients have required hospitalization, and some have needed care in pediatric intensive care units. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is not aware of any patients who have died because of this condition.

Initial testing at the CDC indicates that illnesses in other cities also are caused by EV-D68. Additional information about human enterovirus 68 can be found in today's CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6038a1.htm>

The illness is characterized by difficulty breathing, difficulty getting enough oxygen, and wheezing in some patients. A minority of patients have a fever.

Medical providers are not required to report known or suspected cases of EV-D68 to public health authorities. However, medical providers are asked to report clusters or outbreaks of unexplained respiratory illnesses to their local public health agency or to the department.

Clinicians should encourage pediatric patients with asthma to be vigilant in taking their asthma controlling medications. Clinicians also should promptly and aggressively begin treatment in patients with asthma who begin to show early signs and symptoms of an asthma exacerbation.

There are no vaccines to prevent EV-D68 infections.

Patients can help protect themselves from respiratory illnesses by:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding kissing, hugging, and sharing cups and eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Making sure vaccinations, including the influenza vaccine, are up to date.

www.colorado.gov/cdphe/cdphenews.