

Facts about Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) for Day Care Providers

What is Enterovirus D68?

EV-D68 is one of many enteroviruses. EV-D68 infections occur during the summer and fall months. Most people infected with enteroviruses do not have symptoms or have only mild flu-like symptoms.



Why is this a concern for Day Care Providers?

Infants, children, and teenagers are most at risk for enteroviruses and may become ill. They are at increased risk because they have not yet acquired immunity from previous exposures. It is more serious for children with asthma and/or other respiratory diseases. Staff and children at the day care center should take extra precautions.

What are the symptoms in children?

Most people infected do not have symptoms or have only mild flu-like symptoms. The virus can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, especially in people with asthma and/or other respiratory diseases. Other symptoms can include fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and body and muscle aches.

How is it spread?

The virus can be found in secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum and probably stools. It can spread through close contact with infected people and is likely to spread from person- to -person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces.

What can I do to help reduce the risk of children in my Day Care Center from getting infected?



- Wash your hands, and children's hands, with soap and water for 20 seconds, **especially after changing diapers, after using the bathroom, and before eating.**
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and encourage the children to do so. Wash your hands after using a tissue.
- Discourage children from kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with others.

Should children attend day care while ill?

No. Please advise parents and caregivers that children should remain home if they are ill with a respiratory illness until they are free of symptoms for 24 hours to avoid passing on the illness. If a child is ill with breathing difficulty, seek medical care immediately.

For more information visit
www.cdc.gov or www.ongov.net/health

Sources: New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)