



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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* HEALTH ALERT *

To: Chester County Residents

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 11:53 AM

Subject: Enterovirus D68

Hospitals in Missouri and Illinois are reporting more children than usual with severe respiratory illness caused by Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), and in several other states children are developing severe respiratory illness, possibly due to EV-D68. **While there are no confirmed cases in Pennsylvania at this time**, the Chester County Health Department is providing you with information on the background of EV-D68 and the recommended prevention measures to limit the potential spread of the virus.

- EV-D68 is a common virus which causes respiratory illness. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, sore throat and sometimes fever. Those who have tested positive for the virus are children age 6 weeks to 16 years. Children who have a history of wheezing or asthma are at higher risk for hospitalization, pneumonia, and other complications.
- EV-D68 is spread from person to person by droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Less often, a person might become infected by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose.
- There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections. There are no medications available for treating EV-D68. Many infections will be mild and self limiting. Some people with severe respiratory illness may need to be hospitalized. **Please consult your healthcare provider if you or your child(ren) are experiencing symptoms.**

Protect yourself from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- 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
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick.

More information is available at www.cdc.gov and [What's New: Enterovirus D68](#)