

September 15, 2014

Announcement

NYS Department of Health Confirms Cases of Serious Respiratory Virus

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has issued an advisory related to enterovirus EV-D68; a serious respiratory illness that has been confirmed in over a dozen children in New York State. This virus can cause severe respiratory illness in children especially those with asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions, sometimes resulting in hospitalization. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), school-age children are most likely to get infected with such enteroviruses and become ill because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to these viruses.

According to the NYSDOH, the EV-D68 virus is transmitted through close contact with a person who is already infected, and/or by touching objects or surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching one's mouth, nose, or eyes. There is no specific treatment or anti-viral medications available. Please utilize the following prevention methods to minimize the spread of the virus:

- **Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.**
- **Avoid touching of 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.**
- **Use the same precautions used to prevent the spread of influenza.**

Symptoms include, but are not limited to: fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing and body aches. Most infected persons have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can be serious.