



COUNTY OF ERIE

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #322

September 30, 2014

ACUTE NEUROLOGIC ILLNESS WITH FOCAL LIMB WEAKNESS OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY IN CHILDREN

Please distribute to Healthcare Facilities, Pediatrics Department, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is assisting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other State Health Departments to investigate the nationwide outbreak of enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory disease among children.
- On September 26, CDC issued a Health Advisory (<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00370.asp>) describing a cluster of nine pediatric patients hospitalized in Colorado with acute neurologic illness of undetermined etiology. The illness is characterized by focal limb weakness and abnormalities of the spinal cord gray matter on MRI.
 - These illnesses have occurred since August 1, 2014 coincident with an increase of respiratory illnesses among children in Colorado. Most children reported a febrile respiratory illness in the two weeks preceding development of neurologic symptoms.
 - CSF testing to date has been negative for West Nile virus and enteroviruses, including poliovirus. Nasopharyngeal specimens were positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus in six out of eight patients that were tested. Of the six positive specimens, four were typed as EV-D68, and the other two are pending typing results.
 - The possible linkage of this cluster of neurologic disease to the EV-D68 outbreak is part of the current investigation.
- Currently, Erie County has had no reports of this acute neurologic illness.

RECOMMENDATION

The ECDOH requests that providers report patients who meet the following case definition:

- Patients ≤ 21 years of age with

- Acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on or after August 1, 2014; AND
- An MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter.

REPORTING

Providers can report the case to the ECDOH at 716-858-7697 during normal business hours or 716-961-7898 evenings, weekends and holidays.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit the CDC enterovirus website (<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/>) for general information about enterovirus infections, including EVD-68, and for up-to-date guidance.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59>.