Health Advisory
October 1, 2014

Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68)

Summary:
In August, health officials noted an increase in severe respiratory illness among children in the Midwest. The number of states reporting cases of EV-D68 has continued to grow. Cases have been confirmed by either state public health laboratories or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As of September 30, a total of 472 people in 41 states have been reported to have disease and California has identified cases in San Diego and Ventura Counties.

More information regarding the recent EV-D68 severe respiratory clusters can be found at:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6336a4.htm?s_cid=mm6336a4_w

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:
1. Consider EV-D68 as a possible cause of acute, unexplained severe respiratory illness. Fever may be absent.
2. Test for influenza, RSV, enterovirus, and rhinovirus in persons in whom EV-D68 is being considered.
3. Collect and submit specimens (see Testing Section below) and Contact CCPH Communicable Disease Program at 925-313-6740 BEFORE submitting any specimens.
4. Implement Standard, Contact and Droplet precautions when caring for patients with known or suspected EV-D68.
5. Advise patients with respiratory symptoms to use good hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Clean hands with soap and water. NOTE: Alcohol based hand gels are not effective against EV- D68.

Background:
Enteroviruses are very common in children. These viruses are associated with various clinical symptoms ranging from mild to severe. EV-D68 is not a new virus; the virus was first isolated in California in 1962. EV-D68 is known to cause respiratory illness. Children infected with this virus are presenting with severe respiratory illness (wheezing and difficulty breathing) often without fever. Clinical supportive care needs have included: bilevel positive airway pressure ventilation, mechanical ventilation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. There are no available vaccines or specific treatments for EV-D68.
TESTING

- Submit specimens directly to: Contra Costa Public Health Laboratory (8AM-5PM M-F)
  2500 Alhambra Ave., Room 209
  Martinez, CA 94553
  Phone: 925-370-5775

- Important: Do NOT submit specimens directly to CDPH or CDC.
- Collect a minimum of 0.7ml of respiratory specimen in viral or universal transport media for PCR testing of multiple viral pathogens.
  - Acceptable respiratory specimens include: nasopharyngeal swabs, throat swabs, and/or endotracheal aspirates
- Correct specimen submittal includes:
  - Complete the CDPH Enterovirus D68 Surveillance Submittal Form and send with specimen for submission;
  - Request testing for influenza, RSV, rhinovirus and /or enterovirus; and
  - Submit on cold pack
- Testing prioritization will be given to the following:
  1) Commercial or hospital laboratory PCR result that is positive for rhinovirus or enterovirus;
  2) Children under the age of 18 years with severe respiratory illness, especially with wheezing, who are admitted to a PICU; and
  3) Clusters or outbreaks of severe respiratory illness in all age groups, including those that occur in long term care facilities.
- Specimens that test positive for rhinovirus or enterovirus will be forwarded to the California Department of Public Health, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Lab for further characterization.

INFECTION CONTROL

- Hospitalized patients should be placed in Standard, Contact and Droplet precautions due to respiratory nature of EV-D68.
- Environmental disinfection of surfaces in healthcare settings should be performed using a hospital-grade disinfectant with an EPA label for non-enveloped viruses (e.g. norovirus).
  http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf
- Use soap and water for hand washing; alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not work.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:
The Contra Costa Public Health, Communicable Disease Programs can be reached 8AM-5PM M-F at:
925-313-6740 (phone) or 925-313-6465 (fax).

MORE RESOURCES
More information may be found at www.cchealth.org or www.cdph.ca.gov or www.cdc.gov.