NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 7, 2014

Dear New Hanover Township School Families:

In recent weeks, a virus called Enterovirus-D68, or EV-D68, has garnered great attention both nationally and locally. I have attached a "Public Health Fact Sheet" published by the Burlington County Health Department detailing EV-D68. To date, no students at New Hanover Township School have contracted EV-D68. Despite this fact, we remain vigilant in protecting the health and safety of our students and their families. Specifically, we have and will continue to:

a. Inform staff of symptoms to watch for,
b. Send students home who exhibit respiratory problems,
c. Follow standard procedures regarding school cleaning, and
d. Remain abreast of updates from the Burlington County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (609) 723-2139.

Sincerely,

Scott Larkin, Principal
New Hanover Township School

Encl

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68)

Burlington County Health Department 15 Pioneer Blvd. Westampton, NJ 08060
Telephone (609) 265-5548 Fax (609) 265-3152

What are enteroviruses?

Enteroviruses (EV) are common viruses. It is estimated that 10-15 million EV infections occur in the United States each year. Most people infected with EV have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, but some infections can be serious. The spread of EV is unpredictable and different types of EV can be common in different years with no pattern. People are more likely to get infected with EV infections during the summer and fall.

Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68) is one type of the more than 100 enteroviruses. This virus was first detected in California in 1962. EV-D68 infections have recently been documented across the United States, including in New Jersey.

What are the symptoms of EV-D68?

EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness and may include these symptoms:

- Fever
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Cough
- Body and muscle aches
- Severe symptoms may include wheezing, difficulty breathing, and worsening of asthma

Who is at risk for EV-D68?

Infants, children and teenagers are most likely to get infected with EV and become sick. This is most likely because they do not have protection (immunity) or because of no previous exposure to this virus. Children with asthma seem to have a higher risk for severe respiratory illness. Infants and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of complications. Adults can get infected with EV and are more likely to have no symptoms or mild symptoms.

What should parents of children with asthma know about EV-D68?

It is important that asthma is well-treated and controlled. Children with asthma should follow their asthma treatment plan. Healthcare providers should be consulted in the development of asthma treatment plans.

How is EV-D68 spread?

EV-D68 is spread through close contact with an infected person. Enteroviruses can be found in respiratory secretions, such as saliva (spit), nasal mucus (snot) and sputum (thick mucus in the lungs) and stool (poop). The virus likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. You also may become infected by touching objects or surfaces that have the virus on them and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes, and when a person touches poop and does not wash their hands.

How long can enteroviruses live on surfaces?

EV can survive on surfaces long enough to allow the virus to spread to others. Frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces such as tables, chairs, countertops, doorknobs, toys and computer keyboards can help limit the spread of EV to others.

The best way to clean surfaces is to use a bleach-based household cleaner as directed on the product label. If no such cleaning product is available, you can use a solution made with 5 tablespoons to 1.5 cups of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.

What can I do to protect myself against EV-D68?

There is no vaccine to prevent EV-D68 infections. However, you can protect yourself from EV-D68 and other EV infections if you:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
  - Enterovirus is found in poop (stool). Good hand hygiene is important for anyone who comes into contact with poop.
  - Hand sanitizer is not effective against EV
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Use good respiratory hygiene; coughing and sneezing into a tissue or elbow and properly disposing of tissues. For more information about respiratory hygiene see the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys, doorknobs, and computer keyboards, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when feeling sick and consult your healthcare provider
  - Since people with asthma are at higher risk for respiratory illnesses, they should take their medicine as directed by their healthcare provider
- Stay up to date with immunizations, especially for seasonal flu. This can protect against other common infections and lessen the risk of having a more severe illness if you are infected with EV-D68 at the same time as influenza.

Where can I get more information?

- Your doctor, nurse or clinic
- The Burlington County Department of Health at (609)265-5548
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at: http://www.cdc.gov/
- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Website at http://www.nj.gov/health

October 2014