

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

Health Officer  
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San José, CA 95126



### HEALTH ADVISORY: Enterovirus D68

DATE: September 30, 2014

TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Infection Control, Hospitals, and Clinics

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Health Officer

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Enteroviruses can cause respiratory, gastrointestinal, or neurologic illness ranging in severity from asymptomatic to severe. Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) – one of hundreds of enteroviruses – emerged in the Midwest this summer as a cause of severe respiratory illnesses in children, after being rarely reported since first identified in 1962. In the current outbreak, most patients are children under 16 with a prior history of asthma or wheezing. Now, six cases of EV-D68 have been confirmed in southern California and one in northern California. No cases have been confirmed in Santa Clara County although tests of suspect cases are underway.

Because many commercially available PCR tests are not readily able to distinguish enterovirus from rhinovirus, patients who are rhinovirus/enterovirus positive should be considered for EV- D68 testing. **Children hospitalized with severe respiratory illness, as well as patients of any age who belong to clusters of severe respiratory illness will be prioritized for testing.** The turnaround time is 7–10 days. Patients should also be tested for influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), as both pathogens are common causes of severe respiratory illness in young children at this time of year, and early treatment of influenza with antivirals can reduce morbidity and mortality. Testing criteria may evolve as the epidemiology of EV- D68 is better understood and public health testing resources expand.

#### Clinicians should keep in mind:

##### 1. Symptoms

- Acute, unexplained severe respiratory illness, often with wheezing. Fever may be absent.

##### 2. Diagnosis

- Test first using viral respiratory panels; if positive for enterovirus or rhinovirus, call the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (see below) to arrange for EV-D68 testing.
- A minimum of 0.7 mL of VTM or UTM with original respiratory specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab, endotracheal aspirate) is required for EV-D68 testing.

##### 3. Prevention and Infection Control

- Adhere to standard and contact precautions, as well as droplet precautions.

##### 4. Report suspected clusters to SCCPHD immediately by phone **408-885-4214** (press 1, then 3); after hours and on weekends/holidays, call 408-998-3438 and ask for the Health Officer on call. Individual cases are not reportable, but call if individual suspect cases need testing.

For more information about Enterovirus D68, see the CDC Health Advisory about Enterovirus D68 <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/han/han00369.asp> as well as the CDC Enterovirus D68 webpage <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html>.

Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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; unlikely to require immediate action.