

Health Advisory Enterovirus

A message from Franklin Public Schools Health Services.

To the Franklin Public Schools Parents and Guardians:

We often see enterovirus illness in the summer and fall. Enterovirus can cause respiratory illness. While most infections cause mild or no symptoms, some can be severe.

- Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches.
- Most of the children who got very ill with EV-D68 infection had difficulty breathing, and some had wheezing. Many of these children had **asthma or a history of wheezing**.

There are no licensed vaccines for protection against enterovirus.

The Massachusetts department of public Health advises parents and patients:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or utensils with people who are sick
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick

Soap and water is the most effective method for hand hygiene as hand sanitizers are less effective against enteroviruses.

We ask that you keep your child home if he/she has a fever for 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. This will help reduce exposure to contagious illnesses including enteroviruses.

Clinicians have been advised to have laboratory confirmation so that we can better monitor the actual number of cases and the type of enterovirus involved.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>

or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the enterovirus.

Please feel free to contact your school nurse if you have any questions.