



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Advisory - Controlling the Spread of Enterovirus in Child Care Settings**

Message ID: 7/19/2018 5:00:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **For your information. No response required.**

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

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.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>

HEALTH ADVISORY | Controlling the Spread of Enterovirus in Child Care Settings | July 19, 2018

Background

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is investigating a cluster of nervous system disease in young children infected with an uncommon type of enterovirus, referred to as EV71. As of June 26, 2018, CDPHE was aware of 13 impacted children who live mostly in the Denver metropolitan area.

Enteroviruses are viral germs that commonly cause mild infections in children. Typically, infected children can have fever, sore throat, mouth sores, runny nose, conjunctivitis, or diarrhea. Enterovirus also causes a common skin rash called hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD). Mild infections get better on their own. However, sometimes enteroviruses can cause serious infection of a child's nervous system affecting the spinal cord or brain. Serious enterovirus infections require hospitalization and can lead to long-term medical complications. There is no specific treatment for enterovirus and no vaccine is available to prevent infection.

Enterovirus infection is extremely common during the late spring, summer, and early fall. The virus spreads easily from an infected person through contact with their stool (poop), saliva, nasal secretions, and fluid from skin blisters. Enterovirus can be spread through coughing, mouthing toys previously used by infected children, or touching contaminated surfaces (including diapers) and then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth without washing hands first.

Take These Steps to Prevent the Spread of Enterovirus in Your Child Care Facility

Wash Hands Frequently

Caregivers and children should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap and water is preferable to the use of hand sanitizer. At a minimum, wash hands at the following times:

- When people arrive to the facility and after being outdoors
- Before and after meals and snacks
- Before and after the use of sensory tables
- Before handling food
- After using the bathroom and every diaper change
- Any time hands become contaminated

Clean Surfaces Thoroughly

- Surfaces should be cleaned, sanitized, and/or disinfected as required in the CDPHE child care regulations.
- Sanitize commonly touched surfaces daily or when they become contaminated.
- Pay extra attention to toys placed in children's mouths. Once the child is finished playing with the toy, it should be cleaned and sanitized prior to use by another child.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated with mucus, stool, or other bodily fluids. If the surface is a food contact surface or toy, it should then be washed, rinsed, and sanitized at the contact time listed on the manufacturer's label.

Ensure Proper Diapering Practices

- Train employees on appropriate diapering practices and supervise them regularly to ensure adherence.
- Follow the following steps: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/hygiene/Diapering-procedures-childcare-508c.pdf

Exclude Sick Children

- Send children with symptoms requiring exclusion (e.g., diarrhea, fever with behavior change, mouth sores resulting in uncontrollable drooling) home as soon as possible. See the CDPHE guidance below for when they can return.
- Separate sick children from other children and then clean/disinfect ill child areas after they are sent home.

Questions/Resources

- Contact CDPHE (303-692-2700) or Tri-County Health Department (303-220-9200) if you have questions, are seeing unusual illnesses, or have higher than normal absentee rates due to respiratory illness, diarrhea, or HFMD.
- CDPHE guidance on when to exclude sick children and when they can return to child care: www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/infectious-disease-guidelines-schools-and-childcare-settings
- Additional resources for child care providers: www.tchd.org/242/Child-Care

Keep **Your Child** from Getting and Spreading **ENTEROVIRUS**



Avoid close contact with sick people



Wash your hands often with soap & water



Cover your coughs & sneezes



Clean & disinfect surfaces



Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands



Stay home when you're sick



www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus