



## **Key Messages Re: Enterovirus for Administrators**

### ***General Enterovirus Information (from Public Health Ontario)***

#### ***What is Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)?***

- Infections with enteroviruses are very common and most people have mild symptoms. There are about 100 types of enteroviruses.
- EV-D68 is a specific enterovirus that causes respiratory illness ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms can include a cold-like illness with coughing and wheezing to more severe infections requiring medical treatment.

#### ***What are the symptoms of Enterovirus D68?***

- Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches.
- Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing.

#### ***How is it spread?***

- EV-D68 can be present in respiratory secretions from the nose and throat and can spread from an infected person when they cough or sneeze.
- Touching surfaces or objects contaminated with these secretions may also result in infection if the virus then gets into the body by touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

#### ***How is it treated?***

- Most will recover naturally as there is no specific treatment for people with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68.
- More serious infections may require medical care

### ***Measures Implemented by the DSBN***

#### ***What is the DSBN doing to protect schools?***

- We take the health and safety of all of our students and staff seriously, and there are proactive programs in place to minimize the spread of viruses and protect the health and well-being of students and staff
- The DSBN works closely with Niagara Region Public Health.
- Our school, along with every school at the DSBN follows an Infection Control Protocol program. This program helps keep students healthy by encouraging proper hand washing techniques as well as cough and sneeze etiquette
- We have installed hand sanitizing stations in our schools and every classroom is equipped with a bottle of hand sanitizer
- Our caretakers follow a very specific and comprehensive cleaning regimen that ensures all common areas are cleaned each day
- As per standard school practice, all school staff are vigilant for students who are ill and to report any concerns to the principal. Students and staff who are ill should remain at home until they are feeling better

***What specific plans are in place in the schools?***

- Principals and school staff are monitoring the general health condition of students
- As part of the DSBN Infection Control Protocol program, staff remind students of the importance of regular, thorough hand washing and good personal hygiene

***What measures are caretakers taking to disinfect schools?***

- Thorough and effective routine cleaning and disinfecting practices are in effect in our schools
- As per standard practice, caretakers provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfecting of schools as part of their daily routine duties
- These include cleaning surfaces that are high contact (e.g., student desktops, classroom tables, drinking water fountains, area designated for ill students) or high contamination areas such as washrooms (e.g., toilet flush handles, toilet seats, hand wash sink faucets, stall and entrance doors and handles, soap and feminine product dispensers, counter tops, plumbing fixtures)
- As part of their regular routine, caretakers use their discretion to determine if additional cleaning is required throughout the day (e.g. spill, throwing up)

***Should I keep my child home?***

- Children who are healthy are expected to come to school
- Ultimately, however, the decision whether or not to send a child to school rests with the parent or guardian

***Do any students at your school have Enterovirus?***

- We will not be confirming any cases of Enterovirus
- According to privacy legislation, a student's health is private and confidential information

**Media Calls:**

Please direct all media calls to Communications.

Reporters with questions can contact Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications at 905-641-1550 ext 54160 or Brett Sweeney, Communications Officer at extension 54106.