



## Infection Prevention & Control

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## Questions?

Infection Prevention & Control  
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*This message is being sent to all Doernbecher faculty and staff.*

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this email is to clarify questions and concerns related to the media coverage about outbreaks of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) reported in several states, particularly in the Midwest and Denver.

For more information about this investigation and patient characteristics, please see the following article from the CDC:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm63e0908a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm63e0908a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm63e0908a1.htm?s_cid=mm63e0908a1_e)

### **Respiratory viral activity at Doernbecher Children's Hospital**

Currently, Doernbecher Children's Hospital is **not** experiencing a substantial increase in the number of patients requiring care for respiratory illnesses. In addition, we are **not** experiencing a significant increase in enterovirus disease. The OHSU Infection Prevention & Control Department is currently testing a small number of samples for EV-D68 serotype (in collaboration with the State Health Department and CDC). Results are not yet available.

### **Respiratory virus PCR at Doernbecher Children's Hospital**

The respiratory virus PCR panel detects rhinovirus, which cross-reacts with enterovirus. Thus, a respiratory virus PCR that is positive for rhinovirus may be enterovirus (including EV-D68). Currently, we are **not** experiencing an increase in the number of positive rhinovirus PCR tests. The number of positive tests has remained constant over several months.

**While we continue to monitor viral activity, the following is recommended:**

*Infection Prevention Measures:*

- Institute droplet + contact isolation precautions for any patient with respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, rhinorrhea, wheezing, shortness of breath, etc). This includes all afebrile patients with wheezing (notably, more than half of the patients in the Midwest's CDC investigations were afebrile).
- Perform meticulous hand hygiene before and after providing care to patients with respiratory symptoms.
- Use dedicated stethoscopes in units where available. When using your own stethoscope, thoroughly disinfect in between each patient.

*Diagnostic Testing:*

- Perform testing with the respiratory virus PCR panel for all patients with respiratory symptoms admitted to the PICU or NICU (NICU: admissions from the community, not in-house births).
- Currently, we do NOT recommend routine testing for respiratory viruses for patients admitted to non-ICU settings. Testing is at the discretion of the primary health care team and should only be performed for clinical purposes. Testing for epidemiologic purposes outside of the ICU setting is discouraged. If you have clinical questions about testing or management, please consult the clinical ID service.

*Ill Hospital Visitors:*

- Help keep sick visitors out of our hospital. Non-parent ill visitors with respiratory symptoms (including ill siblings) are restricted from visiting, and should be asked to leave the hospital. Parents with respiratory symptoms are encouraged to go home as well, whenever possible. Parents with respiratory symptoms who choose to remain in the hospital with their child should wear a mask while in the facility and are prohibited from common areas.
- At the present time, there are no sibling visitor restrictions in place. However, interim visitor restriction policies may be activated based on changes in local epidemiologic data.

**When advising patients and families, please note:**

- Testing for respiratory viruses will not be performed routinely on all patients with respiratory symptoms.
- Testing will only be performed on critically ill patients and in whom the providers believe the test will alter clinical management (e.g., immunocompromised hosts).
- The respiratory virus PCR panel does NOT identify enterovirus D-68, and parent requests for additional testing through the CDC cannot be accommodated in any circumstance.
- Families should be reminded to wash their hands often, keep asthma under control (stay on asthma medications), and to get their flu vaccines as soon as possible.

The Infection Prevention & Control Department will continue to monitor viral activity at Doernbecher, in collaboration with the Oregon State Health Department, and with hospital

epidemiology colleagues at children's hospitals across the country.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Department (epidemiology or isolation questions), or the ID physician on call (clinical questions). Updates will be sent as needed.

Sincerely,

Judy Guzman-Cottrill