



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

SEP 12 2014

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Education Activity Child Care Prevention Measures for the Current Enterovirus Outbreak

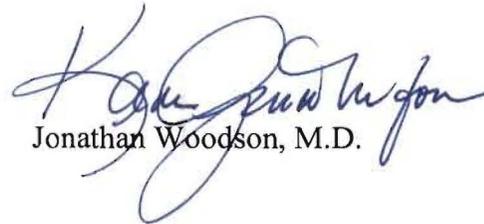
The recent outbreaks of respiratory illness involving enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) that are being reported in multiple states have the potential to place our children's health at risk. This virus spreads from person-to-person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. There are no vaccines or antiviral medications that are effective against this virus. As a result, it is important to implement prevention measures in our Child Development Centers and in our Department of Defense (DoD) Education Activity schools in the continental United States, particularly when clusters of this illness are reported in the surrounding communities. Should the outbreak begin to extend outside of the continental United States, these measures would be applied as well.

The illness appears to affect primarily children, with the illness reported in those as young as 16 weeks of age. The most common symptoms are a mild cold or respiratory illness. In some individuals, the illness may progress to wheezing and difficulty breathing and require hospitalization, especially among children with asthma. We need to educate staff and children on the following prevention measures which should be implemented as soon as possible:

- Keep children and staff members home if they feel unwell;
- Cover mouth (tissue or sleeve) when sneezing or coughing and promptly dispose of the used tissues;
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds - particularly after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose, and after going to the bathroom and changing diapers, and before eating;
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are regularly touched by different people, including changing tables and toys;

- Avoid shaking hands, kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils, especially with children or staff who are sick;
- Keep your installation public health/prevention medicine offices aware of any disease clusters in your facilities, and especially those that appear to be consistent with the symptoms described above; and
- In the event clusters of respiratory illness occur, discuss with installation public health experts and installation commanders whether your facilities should be closed to limit further disease transmission. Such decisions should take into account recommendations made by local and state public health authorities.

My point of contact is Dr. Craig Postlewaite, Deputy Chief, Public Health Division, Defense Health Agency, who may be reached at (703) 681-8384 or Craig.Postlewaite@dha.mil.



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cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Joint Staff Surgeon