

Alabama Department of Public Health
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT) Health Alert Network (HAN)

Enterovirus D68 Virus (EV-D68) in Alabama

Current Situation

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Epidemiology Division (EPI), is investigating clusters of children with suspected EV-D68. ADPH Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) has received 8 specimens for patients who were positive for enterovirus. Those specimens were forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for EV-D68 laboratory testing. As of 9/15/14, four specimens have been confirmed as EV-D68, one specimen was confirmed as Coxsackievirus B3, one specimen was negative, and two specimens are pending.

EV-D68 should be considered for patients with severe respiratory illness that have been admitted to the ICU and have positive initial screening tests for enterovirus and/or rhinovirus.

Report

EV-D68 clusters must be reported to EPI within 24 hours as a case of public health importance. To report a cluster, call EPI at 1-800-338-8374.

Education

Educate all patients with suspected EV-D68 using the Enterovirus D68 Flyer on ADPH's Website, www.adph.org/bcd.

Specimen Collection and Shipping

ADPH is requesting specimens be submitted for further testing to confirm the presence of EV-D68 by molecular sequencing. Please submit only specimens from children with severe respiratory illness that required admission to the ICU and who had a positive test for enterovirus and/or rhinovirus.

- Contact EPI at 1-800-338-8374 to coordinate specimen submission.
- BCL does not perform initial screening multi-assay for enterovirus and/or rhinovirus. Send the specimen to your hospital or reference lab.
- Send EV-D68 specimens to BCL to be forwarded to CDC. Complete the BCL's [Requisition Form For Laboratory Testing](#).
- Follow CDC's instructions for specimen collection and storage, <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/lab-testing/specimen-collection.html>. CDC prefers nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) specimens be submitted.
- Properly packed specimens can be dropped off at your local county health department to be couriered to BCL overnight or can be shipped directly at your expense to:

ADPH/BCL
8140 AUM Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Resources

- For more information about EV-D68, see http://www.adph.org/bcd/assets/CDC_HAN_00369.pdf and <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>.
- If you have a question about reporting a suspected cluster, call EPI at 1-800-338-8374.
- If you have a question about specimen collection and shipping, call BCL at 334-260-3400.