



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS  
Ryan Costello  
Kathi Cozzone  
Terence Farrell

JEANNE E. CASNER, MPH, PMP  
County Health Director

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Bureau of Personal Health Services  
Chester County Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Road, Suite 180  
West Chester, PA 19380-0990  
610-344-6252 FAX: 610-344-5405  
[www.chesco.org/health](http://www.chesco.org/health)

## \* HEALTH ALERT \*

To: Chester County Residents

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2014 11:53 AM

Subject: Enterovirus D68

Hospitals in Missouri and Illinois are reporting more children than usual with severe respiratory illness caused by Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), and in several other states children are developing severe respiratory illness, possibly due to EV-D68. **While there are no confirmed cases in Pennsylvania at this time**, the Chester County Health Department is providing you with information on the background of EV-D68 and the recommended prevention measures to limit the potential spread of the virus.

- EV-D68 is a common virus which causes respiratory illness. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, sore throat and sometimes fever. Those who have tested positive for the virus are children age 6 weeks to 16 years. Children who have a history of wheezing or asthma are at higher risk for hospitalization, pneumonia, and other complications.
- EV-D68 is spread from person to person by droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Less often, a person might become infected by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose.
- There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections. There are no medications available for treating EV-D68. Many infections will be mild and self limiting. Some people with severe respiratory illness may need to be hospitalized. **Please consult your healthcare provider if you or your child(ren) are experiencing symptoms.**

Protect yourself from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick.

More information is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [What's New: Enterovirus D68](#)

*"Protecting You and Your Environment"*