

October 15, 2014



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are working with Allegheny County Health Department to monitor any potential Enterovirus D68 cases in our community and to make decisions about the best steps to take to protect the health of students and staff should the virus appear in Plum or nearby communities.

There are zero confirmed or suspected cases of Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) in our schools. This communication is to alert you of our preventative measures and provide some information about EV-D68.

The District has implemented measures to mitigate possible spread:

- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect high touch items such as doorknobs and desk tops
- Regularly clean keyboard, telephones, iPads, etc.
- Ensure restrooms and classrooms have adequate supplies
- We utilize an EPA hospital grade disinfectant
- We utilize a product that has a “kill claim” for polio and rhinovirus, which are relatives of EV-D68
- We employ correct cleaning and disinfecting, safety, and waste removal procedures

Because Enterovirus can easily spread from person to person, we are asking your assistance to help mitigate the possibility of spread.

Here is what you can do to help:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. Adults can set a good example by doing this too.
- Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If tissues are not available, coughs and sneezes can be covered with the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of hands.
- Keep sick children at home.

Information about EV-D68 according to the Center for Disease Control: EV-D68 is one of many non-polio enteroviruses. Individuals infected with EV-D68 may experience mild to severe respiratory illness. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person’s respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. Since people with asthma are higher risk for respiratory illnesses, they should regularly take medicines and maintain control of their illness during this time. They should also take advantage of influenza vaccines since people with asthma have a difficult time with respiratory illnesses.

Allegheny County Health Department: www.achd.net/mainstart.html

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html