

Fork Lane Elementary School

ENTEROVIRUS D68 (EV D68) INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

September 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recent news reports have shared that a virus called **Enterovirus D68 (EV D68)** has been found in school aged children in many states. It is now in New York. Most people infected with enteroviruses do not have symptoms or have only mild flu-like symptoms. There is no treatment for illness caused by EV-D68. The virus can be found in saliva and nasal mucus. It spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing, or touching surfaces.

Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing and body/muscle aches. Most of the children who got very ill with EV-D68 infection had trouble breathing, and some had wheezing. Many of these children had a history of breathing problems due to asthma or cystic fibrosis.

If your child develops a fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, body and muscle aches, please do not send your child to school until he/she does not have a fever, is not taking any medicines to reduce the fever, and is well enough to stay in class all day and learn. Until then, please allow your child to rest and get better at home. If your child is not having serious breathing problems, you can use over-the-counter medications for pain and fever. Aspirin should not be given to children. If your child is having breathing problems, you should contact your doctor or health care provider immediately.

To help protect your child please remind them to:

- Wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue if possible.

Hand washing with soap and water is the best method for cleaning hands. If soap and water are not available, alcohol based hand sanitizers (60% concentration or greater) may be used. We recommend you supervise your child when using hand sanitizer. If your child is sensitive to hand sanitizer products, please notify the school.

District staff is reminding students to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing, throw their tissue in a trash can, wash their hands, and not share any personal items. Areas that students touch frequently will be given additional attention.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mr. C. Scardino

Principal Name