

## Severe Respiratory Virus

(Enterovirus D68)



Hospitals in Illinois and several other states have recently reported cases of severe respiratory illnesses, especially among children. There have been no reported cases in Rock Island County to date. This respiratory illness has been identified as Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) through laboratory testing.

There are more than 100 types of enteroviruses, which are very common viruses of respiratory illness. Most infected people have no symptoms or mild symptoms but some infections can be serious. Enterovirus infections tend to occur seasonally, in the summer and fall. Enteroviruses can cause cold-like symptoms; runny nose, cough and sneezing. Other symptoms can include fever, rash, and mouth blisters. These viruses are transmitted through close contact with an infected person, or by touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated with the virus and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections and no specific anti-viral medications currently available for this purpose. Vaccines are not available. Practicing the 3 C's will help to reduce your risk of becoming ill:

- Clean - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover – Coughs and Sneezes with your elbow or a tissue (not your hands)
- Contain – Prevent spreading germs by staying home when you are sick and avoiding close contact with family and friends when ill



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Rock Island County  
Health Department**

## **Local Syphilis Resurgence**

The Communicable Disease Section of the Rock Island County Health Dept. has identified an increase in the number of reported syphilis cases in the Quad City area.

Syphilis occurs in 3 stages. The primary stage involves a sore on the genitals or the mouth an average of 3 weeks after exposure. The secondary stage begins 6 weeks to 6 months after exposure and involves a non-itchy body rash. Secondary disease may progress to a latent stage with no disease symptoms. The tertiary stage if untreated can involve development of paralysis, blindness, dementia, deafness or impotence.