



September 17, 2014

In this Issue:

- ◆ **Enterovirus D68**
- ◆ **Pertussis**

To view previous
MHO UPDATES, go to:
[www.interiorhealth.ca/
AboutUs/Leadership/
Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/Pages/MHOUpdates.aspx)

CONTACT INFO

Dr. Trevor Corneil
Medical Health Officer

Dr. Andrew Larder
Senior Medical Health
Officer

Dr. Rob Parker
Medical Health Officer

Dr. Sue Pollock
Medical Health Officer

DUTY MHO LINE
(24/7)
1-866-457-5648

Enterovirus D68

The US CDC has recently reported an increase in hospitalizations among children with severe respiratory illness associated with enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). Alberta has also reported confirmed cases of EV-D68 and Ontario is reporting increased emergency department visits for respiratory illness among children, although the etiology is still unknown.

As of September 16th, BC has three confirmed cases of EV-D68 ranging in age from 9-19 years of age. Two of the three cases have had neurological manifestations (transverse myelitis) which have not been a prominent feature among cases reported in the US. There is currently one confirmed case from Interior Health. Overall, the BC Centre for Disease Control has not been notified of any clusters/outbreaks or a similar increase in respiratory illness.

Action and Advice:

1. Consider EV-D68 infections in any children presenting with severe respiratory illness. More severe respiratory presentations of EV-D68 may be associated with an underlying co-morbidity, notably a history of asthma.
2. Report any increase or unusual clusters/outbreaks of respiratory illness to the Medical Health Officer at 1-866-778-7736 or after hours at 1-866-457-5648.
3. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for EV-D68.
4. Clinical care is supportive.
5. Implement routine infection control practices, including droplet and contact precautions.
6. Surfaces should be cleaned with a hospital-grade disinfectant with a DIN and label claim for non-enveloped viruses.

Laboratory Testing:

Only certain laboratories in the Lower Mainland conduct enterovirus testing. Molecular typing specific for EV-D68 by the BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory (BC PHMRL) is required before cases can be considered confirmed.

For hospitalized patients with severe respiratory illness and suspected EV-D68 infection (such as those with a positive enterovirus screening test), clinicians are requested to submit respiratory specimens (nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal or other specimen as clinically indicated) to the BC PHMRL. If testing is required, please consult your local medical microbiologist.

Further Information:

BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/DiseaseStatsReports/EmergingRespiratoryVirusUpdates.htm>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>

Influenza bulletin: <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/DiseaseStatsReports/influSurveillanceReports.htm>

Pertussis

Pertussis cases continue to be identified across the health authority. Since May 1, 2014 83 cases have been reported, an increase from 30 cases reported in the same time period in 2013. These 83 cases are spread across the health authority with Kootenay Boundary reporting the majority of cases.

Cases:

1. Please continue to test and treat for suspect cases of pertussis.
2. Report suspect, probable, and confirmed cases of pertussis to the Medical Health Officer at 1-866-778-7736.

Note: With appropriate antibiotic treatment, the infectious period is reduced to 5 days after the start of antibiotics.

Contacts:

Chemoprophylaxis is recommended for the following persons:

1. Infants less than one year.
2. Women in their 3rd trimester of pregnancy.
3. Household and group/family-daycare contacts if there is an infant or a woman in their 3rd trimester of pregnancy in the household.

Note: Chemoprophylaxis is of benefit if it can be given within 3 weeks of the first exposure to a case.

Further Information:

BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap1.htm> - click on pertussis link.

Please contact the Communicable Disease Unit at 1-866-778-7736 or cdunit@interiorhealth.ca if you have any other questions or concerns.