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Press Release
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Portage County Health Department gives advice on protecting yourself and your kids from respiratory virus- Enterovirus (EV-D68)

The Ohio Department of Health, several Ohio local health departments, and hospitals are assessing increases in severe respiratory illness among children to determine if it may be due to infections with EV-D68. At this time, Ohio does not have any positive tests for EV-D68.

Enteroviruses are very common viruses. It is estimated that 10 to 15 million enterovirus infections occur each year in the U.S. Most people infected with an enterovirus have no symptoms or only mild symptoms. Infants, children, and teens are most likely to get infected with enterovirus and are most likely to become sick. This is because they do not have immunity from previous exposure to these viruses.

EV-D68 is a type of enterovirus that causes mild to severe respiratory illness, with some severe illnesses requiring hospitalization. Symptoms include:

- fever
- difficulty breathing
- wheezing or severe asthma symptoms.

Contact your health care provider if you are concerned about your symptoms.

EV-D68 is spread through close contact with infected people or infected surfaces. Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing at the Portage County Health Department states, “the best way to protect yourself and your family is to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, cover your cough, and stay home if you feel sick or feel like you are getting sick”.

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