



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

944 STATE ROUTE 17K
MONTGOMERY, NY 12549-2240
PHONE: (845) 457-2400 HUMAN RESOURCES Ext. 18111
PUPIL SERVICES Ext. 18127
www.vcsd.k12.ny.us

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

SHEILA LEASE-MURPHY

September 19, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The New York State Department of Health has released the following information regarding the enterovirus (EV-D68), as a precaution to parents and health care providers. EV-D68 is causing cases of severe respiratory (breathing) illness among children and other individuals. Such illness has sometimes resulted in hospitalization, especially among children with asthma. They are advising everyone to be aware of the signs and symptoms of enterovirus EV-D68, a serious respiratory illness which has now been confirmed in more than a dozen children in New York State.

Symptoms to look for:

Fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and body aches. Since EV-D68 has not been commonly reported, other symptoms may also be seen.

How it is spread:

Enterovirus is transmitted through close contact with a person who has the virus, or by touching objects or surfaces that have the virus on them and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

What you can do to protect yourself:

There is no medicine to treat for EV-D68 infections other than management of symptoms, which is why it is important to protect yourself and others by reminding your children to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Use the same precautions you would use to prevent the spread of influenza.

These prevention steps are especially important for individuals or persons with family members who are infants, or who have chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems.

If your child is sick with a runny nose, cough, fever, or aches which are signs of an upper respiratory infection, do not send your child to school. Allow them to rest and recover at home. Contact your medical provider immediately if your child becomes seriously ill.

More information about enterovirus EV-D68 can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,


Sheila Lease-Murphy
Assistant Superintendent