In 2014, the United States experienced a nationwide outbreak of Enteroviurs-D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness. From mid-August 2014 to January 15, 2015, a total of 1,153 people with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 were confirmed. Almost all of the confirmed cases were among children, many of whom had asthma or a history of wheezing. Cases have also been confirmed in Europe and Canada. As of October 23, 2015, 5 cases of EV-D68 have been confirmed from CAPHA Member States.

CARPHA encourages Ministries of Health in Member States to increase awareness and remain vigilant for possible Enterovirus infections causing respiratory illness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68)?</th>
<th>One of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses that causes respiratory illness.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How is EV-D68 spread?</td>
<td>A person infected with EV-D68 may release tiny droplets containing the virus into the air when sneezing, coughing and talking. You may become infected if these droplets land on your nose, mouth or eyes. Infection may also occur if you touch any of these body parts after touching objects contaminated by infected droplets. Potentially contaminated objects include doorknobs, phones, television remotes or someone's hands. Children and adults can get infected with EV-D68. As with all enteroviruses, infants, children and teenagers are more likely to get infected and become ill.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| What are the main symptoms of EV-D68? | EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness.  
• Mild symptoms may include runny nose, sneezing, cough and body and muscle aches.  
• Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing. |
| Is there treatment for EV-D68? | There is no specific treatment for people with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68. Talk to your child’s doctor about the best way to control his or her symptoms. Some people with severe respiratory illness may need to be hospitalized. There are no antiviral medications currently available for people who become infected with EV-D68 |
| Is there a vaccine available? | There is no vaccine for preventing infection with EV-D68. |
| How severe is the disease? | Severe symptoms due to EV-D68 may be more frequently reported in children with a history of asthma and people with a weakened immune system.  
There have been reports of a small number of children with some paralysis who also have EV-D68. A link between paralysis and EV-D68 is not confirmed. Anyone with respiratory illness should contact their healthcare provider if they are having difficulty breathing, or if their symptoms are getting worse. |
| What can I do to protect myself and my family? | Good hygiene can help prevent you from catching EV-D68 or spreading it to others.  
• Practice proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds  
• Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as computer keyboards, telephones and door handles to get rid of germs  
• Cover mouth and nose with tissue or sleeve of shirt when coughing or sneezing. Do not cover with hands  
• Avoid touching of eyes, nose and mouth with dirty hands  
• Avoid contact with others by staying home if sick |