



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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For Immediate Release

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONFIRMS ONE ENTERO VIRUS CASE in SAN FRANCISCO**

**SAN FRANCISCO (October 3, 2014)**— The San Francisco Department of Public Health today confirms that Enterovirus D-68 has been confirmed in a San Francisco resident. The affected individual is a child under the age of 18, and was admitted to an out-of-county hospital for two days in mid-September and discharged in good condition.

Enterovirus D-68 is a viral infection that is circulating widely in the United States, and has been diagnosed in a number of California counties.

“Enterovirus D-68 usually causes mild symptoms similar to a cold or a flu,” said Dr. Cora Hoover, Director of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. “Occasionally it can cause severe respiratory symptoms, especially in children with a history of asthma.”

Enterovirus D-68 was discovered in the 1960s, and is one of about 100 enterovirus types. Enterovirus D-68 is not frequently diagnosed, but has caused periodic outbreaks in the United States over the years.

As for colds, there is no vaccine for Enterovirus D-68, and no specific treatment, but there are very effective treatments available for the resulting breathing problems. As always, if your child has difficulty breathing or wheezing, it is very important to seek medical attention.

To prevent transmission of EV-D68, you should:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home from work or school.
- Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.