UTSW/Parkland BioTel EMS ALERT

August 27, 2020

EMS ALERT 20-010: EV-D68 Illness & Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Children

The purpose of this Alert is to advise EMS professionals about EV-D68 and Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM).

Background:

RinATe

- EV-D68 (Enterovirus D68) is a virus that causes respiratory illness & potentially severe complications
 - o It spreads person-to-person via respiratory droplets and contaminated surfaces
 - o Infants, children and teens (especially those with asthma) are at highest risk
- Outbreaks of EV-D68 infection and AFM have occurred in August-October every 2 years since 2012:
 - See <u>BioTel EMS Training Bulletin 14-011</u> for detailed EMS guidance about this pediatric illness Experts expect a similar case spike in the next several weeks and months*:
 - It is not known if social distancing measures over the past 6 months because of COVID-19 will prevent or delay the spike OR if co-infection with both EV-D68 and SARS-CoV-2 is possible
- Acute EV-D68 illness resembles acute COVID-19, a "cold" or flu (respiratory symptoms and fever)
- AFM can occur days-weeks after acute EV-D68 infection (≈ MIS-C days-weeks after acute COVID-19):
 - This inflammatory condition is associated with weakness, numbness, paralysis and (rarely) death Definitive diagnosis of COVID-19 vs. EV-D68 cannot be made in the field
- EMS management is the same: infection control, supportive care and transport (esp. for severe symptoms)

> EMS Action Items, Effective Immediately:

- 1. Consider the possibility that any infant, child or teen with mild or severe respiratory illness may have COVID-19, EV-D68, influenza or another viral infection with *potentially severe or lethal complications*
- 2. Use current EMS protective measures (e.g. PPE and source control (BioTel EMS Alert 20-006))
- **3. STRONGLY** encourage parents/caregivers to accept EMS transport for any acutely ill infant, child or teen with fever, respiratory signs/symptoms or neurologic signs/symptoms[‡]:
 - This is especially true for infants/children with underlying medical conditions (e.g. asthma or obesity) and for those with severe signs/symptoms (e.g. wheezing, respiratory distress, high fever)
 - Transport refusals should be addressed by online consultation with a BioTel medical control physician and meticulously documented



TB 14-011







EMS Alert 20-009

Parkland

UTSouthwestern

PPE Guidance

EMS Alert 20-006

IMPORTANT: Remember to consider MIS-C, which also commonly causes NON-respiratory symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, rash, conjunctivitis, weakness, lethargy and shock) and which can rapidly progress to multi-system organ failure and cardiac arrest (<u>BioTel EMS Alert 20-009</u>)

> Contact BioTel or the BioTel Medical Direction Team with questions or concerns

*For more information:

CDC Expects 2020 Outbreak of Life-Th	reatening Acute Flaccid Myelitis
CDC: AFM Cases and Outbreaks	CDC: About Acute Flaccid Myelitis

CDC: AFM Infographic CDC: Enterovirus D68

EMS ALERT 20-010 EVD68-AFM

Page **1** of **1**