Dear Parent / Guardian,

You may have heard on the news or read in the newspaper about a severe respiratory illness associated with Enterovirus EV-D68. Although there have been no reported cases of EV-D68 in the Hooks School District, I wanted to pass along some important information.

**What is Enterovirus EV-D68?**

* Enteroviruses are a large family of viruses (there are more than 100 types of enteroviruses) that cause millions of mild infections a year.

**What are symptoms to look for?**

* Common symptoms included a fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and body aches.

**How is EV-D68 spread?**

* It is transmitted through close contact with a person who is already infected, and/or by touching objects or surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching one’s mouth, nose, or eyes.

**What do I do if my child feels ill?**

* If your child is sick with a runny nose, sneezing, coughing or body aches accompanied by a fever greater than 100 (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.

**How can I reduce the risk of infections?**

* Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
* Avoid touching of 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 used to prevent the spread of influenza.

If you have any questions about EV-D68, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school nurse.

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