



Buncombe County Health and Human Services

Aging and Veteran's Services ~ Social Work Services
Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health
Amanda Stone, MSW
Health and Human Services Director

To: Buncombe County Medical Providers
From: Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Medical Director
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014
RE: Health alert from the Buncombe County Department of Health

Acute Neurologic Illness with Focal Limb Weakness of Unknown Etiology in Children

The CDC is working with medical and public health professionals in Colorado to investigate a cluster of 9 children hospitalized with acute neurologic illness of undetermined etiology.

- The illness is characterized by focal limb weakness and abnormalities of the spinal cord gray matter on MRI.
- These illnesses have occurred since August 1, 2014, coincident with an increase of respiratory illnesses among children in Colorado.
- CSF testing to date has been negative for enteroviruses, including poliovirus and West Nile virus.
- Nasopharyngeal specimens were positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus in six out of eight patients that were tested.
 - Of the six positive specimens, four were typed as EV-D68, and the other two are pending typing results.
 - **The possible linkage of this cluster of neurologic disease to the large EV-D68 outbreak is part of the current investigation.**

The CDC wants to determine if children with similar clinical and radiographic findings are being cared for in other geographic areas.

- **Patients who meet the following case definition should be reported to your local health department (828-250-5109 for Buncombe County) or to the 24/7 Communicable Disease Branch epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419:**

Patients ≤21 years of age with

- 1) Acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on or after August 1, 2014; AND**
- 2) An MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter.**

Please see the attached CDC alert for more details.

Thanks,

Jenni

Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH
Medical Director
Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services
Office: (828) 250-6308
Jennifer.Mullendore@buncombecounty.org

"Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time." -- Dr. C. Everett Koop, former US Surgeon General

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HHS Administration p. 828.250.5700 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Aging & Veteran's Services p. 828.250.5726 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Social Work Services p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Assistance p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Health p. 828.250.5000 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7407 Asheville, NC 28802
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