

# MLS Laboratory Update: New test offered at MDH-PHL for Enterovirus D68

JULY 14TH, 2026

## Purpose of this Message:

To inform clinical laboratory partners that MDH-PHL offers a molecular test for enterovirus D68 for use when patients meet the criteria for severe disease.

## Action Items:

- Review EV-D68 test order choice requirements.
- Inform all relevant personnel in your facility that MDH-PHL can test patient specimens that meet testing criteria for EV-D68.
  - Positive for enterovirus or rhinovirus/enterovirus by PCR (RV/EV) and symptoms of severe disease

## Background:

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. It is one of many non-polio enteroviruses that can cause mild to severe respiratory illness or no symptoms at all. Mild symptoms include rhinorrhea, cough, and body aches, like a common cold. Severe disease symptoms include wheezing, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia. In rare instances, EV-D68 can cause acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), an uncommon but dangerous neurological condition mostly observed in children. AFM symptoms include arm or leg weakness; loss of muscle tone and reflexes; difficulty swallowing; slurred speech; facial droop and weakness; and pain in the neck, back, arms, and legs. There are no vaccines to prevent EV-D68 infections. MDH-PHL is conducting surveillance for acute flaccid myelitis/paralysis.

### **This test should not be used as a general screening test for enterovirus.**

For routine screening of enteroviruses, please request the Rhinovirus and Enterovirus (RVEV) Multiplex PCR. Enterovirus positives detected by the RVEV PCR may be further characterized with next-generation sequencing.

EV-D68 PCR should be ordered if the patient meets the criteria for severe disease.

- Positive for enterovirus or RV/EV by PCR with severe symptoms such as wheezing, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia.

Any specimens that are negative by EV-D68 PCR will reflex to the RVEV PCR.

**More information about EV-D68 submissions can be found at:**

- [Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Myelitis \(AFM\): Information for Health Professionals - MN Dept. of Health \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/afm/hcp.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/afm/hcp.html)
- [MN Dept. of Health: Infectious Disease Laboratory \(IDL\) Test Catalog \(https://labinventory.web.health.state.mn.us/phl/lab-test-search#/\)](https://labinventory.web.health.state.mn.us/phl/lab-test-search#/)

## **Additional Information:**

- [About Enterovirus D68 | Non-Polio Enterovirus | CDC \(https://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/about-enterovirus-d68.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/about-enterovirus-d68.html)

**Questions:** Please contact:

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