



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

September 30, 2014

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, M.D., MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

899 Northgate Drive  
Suite 104  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
[www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs)

### **Acute Focal Limb Weakness Possibly Linked to EV-D68**

Public health officials are investigating a cluster of nine pediatric patients with acute neurologic illness identified in Colorado beginning August 1, 2014. The illness is characterized by unexplained focal limb weakness and abnormalities of the spinal cord gray matter on MRI. We want to encourage providers to be alert to unexplained focal limb weakness in children, and if detected, report to Marin Public Health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is interested in characterizing the epidemiology and etiology of such cases. The acute focal limb weakness may be associated with the non-polio enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). The United States is currently experiencing a nationwide outbreak of EV-D68, with cases in 40 states including California. The majority of the nine focal limb weakness patients in Colorado had febrile respiratory illness in the two weeks prior to presenting with neurologic symptoms and at least four patients have tested positive for EV-D68. EV-D68 symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, body aches, difficulty breathing and wheezing. At-risk populations are infants, children, adolescents, and those with asthma. Cases are confirmed through nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal, and endotracheal specimens. To arrange for testing at the regional public health laboratory, please contact the Regional Public Health Laboratory at 707-784-4410.

**Recommendations:** patients who meet the following case definition should be reported to Marin Public Health:

Patients  $\leq$  21 years of age with:

- Acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on or after August 1, 2014

AND

- An MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter.

For more information about unexplained focal limb weakness:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00370.asp>

For more information about EV-D68:

<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>