

Mount Sinai Elementary School
Mount Sinai, New York

Dr. J. Gentilcore, Principal
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Recent news reports are reporting that a virus called Enterovirus D68 (EV D68) has been found in school aged children in many states. It is now in New York including Long Island. This is not a new virus and not all people who get this virus will get really sick. There is no treatment for illness caused by EV-D68.

The virus can be found in saliva and nasal mucus. It is spread from person to person through coughing, sneezing or touching surfaces. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough and body and muscle aches. Most of the children who got very ill with EV-D68 had wheezing and trouble breathing. Many of these children had a history of breathing problems due to asthma and cystic fibrosis.

To help protect your child please remind them to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing utensils with people who are sick.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing-use a tissue if possible.

Hand washing with soap and water is the best method for cleaning hands.

It is recommended that a child with a fever over 100°F. be free of fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications) before returning to school.

Thank you for helping us to promote a healthy environment for all children.

For more information refer to <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00369.asp>

Yours Truly,

Kathryn N. Pantino RN
Elementary School Nurse