Enterovirus D68, or EV-D68, is one of more than 60 types of enterovirus which commonly cause cold-like symptoms in people. EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness.

- Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches.
- Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing

Some 10 to 15 million enterovirus infections occur annually in the United States, with most infections occurring in summer and fall when children return to school. Infants, children and teenagers are more likely to contract an enterovirus than are adults. Most of these infections are mild, but some patients with more severe infections may need to be hospitalized. Anyone experiencing severe illness or difficulty breathing should talk with his or her health care provider for evaluation, and parents of children who show any sign of trouble breathing should contact their child’s health care provider. Recently this virus has been linked to a few cases of a polio-like paralysis and a small number of deaths in other states; however, no causal relationship has been established.

Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person’s respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a surface that is then touched by others.

It’s important to follow other commonsense good health habits to prevent enterovirus and other forms of illness. Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If coughing or sneezing, turn into your elbow or shoulder for cover. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick. People who are sick with respiratory symptoms should not attend school or go to work or other places where they can spread their infection until symptoms have resolved.

Williamson County Schools will continue to encourage healthy habits such as hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze. Our school staff, bus drivers, and custodians will be alerted should we see any increase in illness to continue the work of keeping high touch surfaces clean.

We appreciate your help in keeping our community healthy.
Keep Your Child from Getting and Spreading ENTEROVIRUS D68

Avoid close contact with sick people

Cover your coughs & sneezes

Wash your hands often with soap & water

Clean & disinfect surfaces

Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands

Stay home when you’re sick

www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/EV68/