MEDIA ADVISORY

Nathan Miller
Desk: 529.6211
Cell: 403.3537
E-mail: Nathan.miller2@HCAhealthcare.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Patient Update on Enterovirus: 21 children hospitalized since virus reached Idaho

Idaho Falls, Idaho– (*September 16, 2014) -* Four children are currently hospitalized at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC) with symptoms consistent with Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), which includes one child admitted overnight.

The cumulative number of children hospitalized for respiratory symptoms since Sept. 7 is twenty-one.

EIRMC has the only lab in the region with the capability to test for the Enterovirus. EIRMC continues to receive positive samples from other hospitals and doctor's offices in the region.

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center is continuing to advise parents to be mindful of symptoms associated with enterovirus. Most children will experience mild symptoms akin to the common cold; some may have no symptoms at all. But if a child experiences respiratory distress (shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing), parents should immediately visit an ER. Children with asthma are particularly susceptible to enterovirus.

Pediatric patients hospitalized at EIRMC with respiratory distress are recovering quickly with specialized treatment and proper respiratory support. Most of the patients we have treated have a hospitalization stay of 3 to 5 days. Once symptom-free and feeling better, children can return to normal activities, including school.

Community members can help keep their family healthier by following these tips:

- Stay home when feeling sick, and consult with your doctor if your child is experiencing symptoms.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, touching, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

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