

# Parents of children less than 5 years of age attention please!

## Enterovirus 71 Alert

Every April to September is the epidemic period for enterovirus in Taiwan. To protect the health of children, Taiwan CDC launched the enterovirus responsibility hospitals nationwide. The CDC also called for special attention from the parents of approximately 1 million infants/babies (0-5 years old) in the nation on two guidelines for enterovirus prevention.

### 1. To prevent infection in children

Parents should wash their hands correctly before and after touching children. Children should be refrained from having contacts with patients suffering from enterovirus infection. Parents should ensure their children practice good hygiene habits.

### 2. Seek medical advice immediately when suspected of severe enterovirus infection

When you experience the prodromes of severe enterovirus infections such as lethargy, unconsciousness, enervating, weakness of extremities, myoclonus (feeling frightened without reasons or sudden muscle contraction of the entire body), continuous vomiting, tachypnea or tachycardia, please seek medical attention as soon as possible. If you have any question, please call the consultation hotline, 1922, operated by Taiwan CDC for more information.

### (BOX) Epidemic control dictionary

Source of photos: Dr. Bing-Ying Li, assistant professor of Department of Pediatrics, NTU Hospital.

### The characteristics of enterovirus transmission

1. Transmission is usually by the fecal/oral route, through respiratory-oral spread, or by the respiratory route.
2. The incubation period is 2~10 days (average 3~5 days).
3. The infectious period ranges from a few days before onset of symptoms and one week following illness onset. However, the virus has been found in egested feces up to 6~8 weeks after infection.



Ulcers and lesions (sores) inside the mouth, sore throat.

### The symptoms of enterovirus infection

Most people who are infected with an enterovirus have mild or no symptoms. Some of the common symptoms caused by enterovirus include hand-foot-and-mouth disease, herpangina, etc. Most patients recover within 7~10 days, but a few might develop severe complications.

### What can you do if someone is infectious in the family?

1. Assist the affected person in seeking medical assistance immediately and receiving prompt medical treatments; and ensure that the person rests at home and does not go to school for the moment.
2. After dealing with fecal and oral excretions, wash hands correctly.
3. Give the person something icy, sweet, and soft to ingest, and ensure that the person drinks sufficient amount of water; and assist the person in seeking medical attention immediately if experiencing dehydration symptoms such as decreased urine volume, dry oral mucosa, etc.
4. When suspected of severe enterovirus infection, assist the person in transferring to the referral hospitals specialized in severe enterovirus infection care immediately.



【The Left】 Sores with blisters in and around the oral cavity, and on the palms of hands and the soles of feet.

【The Right】 Blisters and lesions on the skin.

