



**CITY OF PEABODY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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October 2, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have heard about “Enterovirus D68,” a virus that has recently been seen in Massachusetts and is causing respiratory illness, especially in children. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued a Fact Sheet, attached, that provides more information. We would like to highlight a few key messages:

1. As there is no specific treatment or vaccine for this virus, prevention measures are simple but important. Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds; avoid hugging, kissing, or sharing cups or utensils with people who are sick; disinfect surfaces that are touched frequently, such as doorknobs and toys; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Practice good “cough etiquette” by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or into your elbow, and wash your hands afterward.
2. If your child is sick with respiratory symptoms, keep him/her home until symptoms improve.
3. Children with asthma should seek care from their primary care provider early if they are experiencing respiratory symptoms, as the illness can be more severe in children with a history of asthma. If your child has asthma, make sure that his/her asthma action plans and medications are up-to-date with the School Nurse’s office.
4. As a reminder, we are entering into flu season. The Peabody Health Department has a number of free flu clinics set up throughout the community and in the public schools. Most doctor’s offices also offer flu vaccine, as do many pharmacies. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

Please contact the Peabody Health Department at (978) 538-5926 if you would like additional information.

Wishing you and your family a healthy school year,

Sharon Cameron  
Director of Health and Human Services  
City of Peabody