

Echovirus 24

Enteric cytopathic human orphan virus

Echovirus 24 is a risk group 2 virus. It is considered a **reproductive pathogen** as infection can cause severe, sometimes fatal, systemic disease in neonates if transmitted around birth. Severe neonatal complications include myocarditis, meningitis, and hepatitis.

Epidemics in neonatal intensive care units have very high morbidity and mortality rates.

How can I be exposed to Echovirus 24?

- Exposure is primarily via contact with infected feces, inhalation of respiratory droplets, and contact with contaminated surfaces and objects.
- Mother to child transmission can occur during birth or rarely through transplacental infection.
- Laboratory workers may be exposed through contact, ingestion, aerosols, and contact or splashes to mucous membranes.

How can I protect myself from exposure?

- Avoid direct skin contact by wearing protective clothing and gloves.
- Avoid mucous membrane exposure by using eye/face protection for procedures that may produce splashes.
- Avoid respiratory exposure by using a biosafety cabinet or other primary containment device and wearing a respirator for procedures that may produce aerosols, particularly centrifugation, resuspension of pellets, and washing.
- The use of needles, syringes, and other sharp objects should be strictly limited, and additional precautions should be taken when working with animals.

What should I do if I think I've been exposed?

Wash the affected area immediately for 15 minutes with soap and water and seek medical attention.

What symptoms should I look for after a potential exposure?

Typical symptoms include acute onset of fever, headache, photophobia, nausea, and vomiting.

How long does it take for symptoms to develop?

Symptoms usually develop within 2-10 days after exposure.

Is there a treatment or vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine and no antiviral treatments.

Can I transmit it to other people?

Yes, echovirus is highly contagious, particularly among children. It is transmitted via the fecal oral route, via respiratory droplets, and in saliva from an infected person.

Can I transmit it to my pets?

Echovirus is mainly associated with human infections although there is some evidence of cross-species transmission to non-human primates under conditions of close contact.

Can it survive on surfaces?

Echovirus can survive on dry, inanimate surfaces for 7 days and for weeks in sewage, water, and body fluids. It is also resistant to alcohol-based disinfectants.

See Pathogen Safety Data Sheet for More Information

