

Enterovirus

Enterovirus is a risk group 2 virus. It is considered a **reproductive pathogen** as infection near delivery or in the third trimester carries the risk of serious neonatal infection, severe sepsis, pneumonia, hepatitis, miscarriage, or stillbirth.

How can I be exposed to Enterovirus?

- Exposure is primarily via contact with infected feces and inhalation of respiratory droplets.
- Mother to child transmission can occur during birth or in the third trimester.
- 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?

Enteroviruses cause a number of illnesses, such as acute flaccid paralysis, acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis, aseptic meningitis/encephalitis, gastrointestinal illnesses, hand foot and mouth disease, myocarditis, pleurodynia, sepsis in neonates, and upper respiratory tract infections.

How long does it take for symptoms to develop?

Symptoms usually develop within 24-48 hours after exposure.

Is there a treatment or vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine and no antiviral treatments for non-polio enteroviruses.

Can I transmit it to other people?

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

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 and rodents, including hamsters.

Can it survive on surfaces?

Enteroviruses can survive on dry, inanimate surfaces for at least 24 hours and for weeks in sewage, water, and body fluids. They are also resistant to alcohol-based disinfectants.

See Pathogen Safety Data Sheet for More Information

