Dear Colleagues-

As you know, Enterovirus D68 has recently been reported as causing outbreaks of respiratory disease in children in several states, with many cases (the majority of whom had a history of asthma) requiring hospitalization. There have been no reports of EV-D68 yet in TN, and we have not received reports of unusual increases in pediatric hospitalizations.  Few laboratories have the capability to identify EV-D68. Our state laboratory can process specimens, but testing requires shipment to the CDC.

We can currently accept specimens from children with severe respiratory infection, requiring hospitalization (especially ICU care), with no other identified cause of illness, and collected within one week of symptom onset. If you request testing on such patients, please call your local or regional health department, or the state health department (615-741-7247) for approval, and then specimens can be sent through your hospital laboratory to the state. Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal specimens should be collected on sterile Dacron or Rayon swabs in viral transport media. For technical questions, the state laboratory may be contacted at 615-262-6300.

Please note that test results may take a long time before results are available, and results will not affect patient management. The primary utility of testing at this time will be for public health surveillance purposes.

Please let us know if you have additional questions. Thank you.