

Beijing City International School

Enterovirus 71 Information

As reported in several media outlets, there is an outbreak of an intestinal virus called enterovirus 71 or EV 71 in China. This is a more serious strain of hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) or Cocksackie virus. Hand, foot and mouth disease is present worldwide. This outbreak began in March and public health experts predict will peak around June/July. Cases of EV 71 confirmed by the World Health Organization are in Anhui Province, with several cases of the milder hand, foot and mouth disease reported in several provinces throughout China, including Beijing.

The symptoms of enterovirus 71 are similar but more severe than the common hand, foot, and mouth disease. The virus often starts with a generalized illness, poor appetite, and sore throat, followed by a fever, rashes on the hands, feet, and buttocks along with mouth ulcers. Infection is spread from person to person by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, saliva, fluid from blisters, or the stool of infected persons. A person is most contagious during the first week of the illness. HFMD is not transmitted to or from pets or other animals. Children under the age of six are most susceptible to infection and serious complications.

Good personal hygiene is the best method of prevention. We are reminding students to wash hands when they arrive at school, after using the bathroom, and before and after eating. We also ask that students to not share food, drink, or utensils. At home, families are encouraged to enforce the same practices, including safe food preparation measures. If your child displays any symptoms of HFMD, please keep them at home and notify the school.

BCIS will continue to communicate closely with members of our local international schools and the medical community regarding this situation and will keep you updated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our school Health Centre 8771-7171

and/or email our nurses nurse@bcis.cn. The World Health Organization has more

detailed information regarding the virus and outbreak on their website,

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_05_01/en/index.html.