

Enterovirus Rhinovirus Parainfluenza Fact Sheet

Enterovirus

Enteroviruses are responsible for significant and frequent non-specific viral illnesses. Enterovirus infections are common and are spread by fecal-oral and respiratory routes. They may survive on environmental surfaces for periods long enough to allow transmission from articles or surfaces that have been contaminated.

Rhinovirus

Rhinoviruses are the most frequent causes of the common cold and sinusitis. They can also be associated with sore throat, ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia. Cold symptoms may persist for 10 -14 days and include malaise, headache, muscle aches and low grade fever. The incubation period is usually 2-3 days but occasionally is up to 7 days.

Parainfluenza

There are 4 types of parainfluenza viruses, all of which can cause upper or lower respiratory tract infections in adults and children. Infections are most common in fall and winter. Parainfluenza infections are most severe in infants and become less severe with age. Symptoms vary depending on the type of infection and are often mistaken for the common cold. There is no specific treatment, other than symptomatic for viral infections. Most infections in adults and older children are mild and recovery takes place without treatment unless the person is very old or has an abnormal immune system. Medical intervention may be necessary if breathing difficulties develop. Secondary bacterial infections are the most common complication.

Other Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x349. Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | www.hpepublichealth.ca

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