



ENPEN symposium:

Acute Flaccid Paralysis and Enterovirus D68: December 13th 14:30 -16:30 CET

Dear All,

The current increase in detections of enteroviruses D-68 and associated cases of acute flaccid paralysis in Europe have prompted the European Non-Polio Enterovirus Network (ENPEN) to organize an online meeting on Monday December 13th 2021, from 14:30 -16:30 CET.

Aim: The aim of the meeting is to create awareness among the essential experts including 1) clinicians (e.g. neurologists, pediatricians and infectious disease experts), 2) virologists and 3) public health experts to ensure that all cases of acute flaccid paralysis are 1) recognized, 2) correctly diagnosed and 3) reported.

What is EV-D68? In recent years, EV-D68 has been identified as a cause of respiratory disease causing numerous outbreaks worldwide, with several cases developing complications of polio-like paralysis or AFM.

The European Network for Non-Polio Enteroviruses (ENPEN) (<https://www.escv.eu/enpen/>) consists of researchers, physicians, pediatricians, and public health specialists across Europe. The aim of ENPEN is to study Enterovirus associated disease such as AFM diseases and the spread of EV-D68 and other non-polio enteroviruses.

At the start of the fall of 2021, ENPEN reported the re-emergence of a large number of EV-D68 infections in several European countries*ⁱ. The high numbers are presumably spurred by the widespread reopening of society after COVID-19 lockdown. Albeit, none of the initial cases were known to be associated with AFP but new AFP cases within EU are currently being reported to ENPEN. However more cases are to be expected in the coming months presumably with report of AFM cases. Reinforcement of 1) clinical awareness, 2) diagnostic capacities and 3) surveillance of EV-D68 is urgently needed in Europe.

Program: We have invited some of the world's leading clinical, virology and public health experts to present during this meeting on the topics of EV-D68 circulation in 2021 and past years and on the clinical diagnosis and identification of AFP cases. We will spread the announcement in several network newsletters, but please help us spread the word and the invitation for this free-for-all meeting.

How to sign up: Please email anette.vahl@regionh.dk w your **name, title, affiliation & nationality**. In return you will receive a personal link to our Zoom meeting.

When: We hope to welcome you on **December 13th, 2021 at 14:30 CET!**

With kind regards,

Heli Harvala and Thea K Fischer on behalf of ENPEN

ⁱ [Re-emergence of enterovirus D68 in Europe after easing the COVID-19 lockdown, September 2021.](#)

Benschop KS, et al. Euro Surveill. 2021 Nov;26(45). doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2021.26.45.2100998.