Increased Reporting of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease in Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Department of Health has received increased reporting of the contagious viral illness called Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease. The increase has been seen primarily in daycare and school aged children. The public should not be unduly alarmed at this time; however, out of an abundance of caution, the public should follow certain recommendations to prevent its spread.

These are the symptoms:

- Fever, rash, sores, poor appetite, a vague feeling of illness and sore throat.
- Painful sores in the mouth may blister and become ulcers.
- Skin rash, flat or raised red spots, develops over 1 to 2 days.
- Rash usually on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet and may appear on the knees, elbows, bottom or genital area.
- Dehydration may occur because of painful mouth sores.

Local health care providers are being asked to notify the Jefferson County Department of Health if higher than normal numbers of cases are being observed. Providers are asked to send specimens to the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) to be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for further testing.

The standard specimens are NP swabs in universal/viral transport media, and/or stool specimens in a sterile container. Both specimen types should be stored cold, and shipped on frozen cold packs to arrive at the BCL within 4 days of collection. With questions regarding testing, contact the Emerging Infectious Disease section of the BCL at 334-260-3429. Please ship specimens to:

ADPH Bureau of Clinical Labs
Attn: EID
8140 AUM Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Please notify the Jefferson County Department of Health if and when you send specimens to BCL.

Jefferson County Department of Health
Point of Contact:
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