Enteroviruses are very common viruses and there are more than known 100 types. More than 10 million enterovirus infections occur in the United States each year. Enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) infections are less common and generally cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Some infections can be more serious, especially in children with chronic respiratory illness or asthma. EV-D68 is found in respiratory secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum; illness most likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a contaminated surface.

The Dutchess County Department of Health is providing the following guidance for school settings:

- There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 infections; there are no currently available antiviral medications and there is no vaccine.

- Many other viruses circulating now in the United States can cause respiratory illness. Not all clusters or outbreaks of respiratory illness are due to EV-D68.

- You can help protect yourself from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:
  - Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze.
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact, kissing, hugging, sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs and keyboards.
  - Stay home if you are sick.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has online resources available:
  - Guidance & Information - http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html
  - Prevention Strategies Poster http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV68-infographic.html

- Report cases and clusters severe respiratory illnesses to Dutchess County Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 486-3402.