

COXSACKIE VIRUS INFECTION
(Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease, Aseptic Meningitis,
Enterovirus or Echoviruses Infections)

IMMUNIZATION: None

INCUBATION PERIOD: 3 to 6 days
For acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis - 24 to 72 hours.

SYMPTOMS: Variable.

- Respiratory - common cold, sore throat, blister-like lesions on throat (with or without difficulty in swallowing), fever, vomiting and prostration, inflammation of oral mucosa, pneumonia, paroxysmal pain in intercostal muscles.
- Neurologic - aseptic meningitis
- Gastrointestinal - abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, hepatitis
- Eye - acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis
- Heart - myopericarditis
- Skin - rash

PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:
A person is most contagious during the acute stage of illness. Virus is shed through respiratory secretions for one week and feces for up to six weeks.

MODE OF TRANSMISSION:
Direct contact with nose/throat discharges and feces. Fomite contamination and transmission can also occur. Mother to infant transmission before or around time of birth.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:
Exclude during acute stage of illness or until child is able to participate in routine activities. Then follow good handwashing and hygiene practices, especially after diaper changing or assisting child following restroom use. Be sure child's hands are washed.

CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:
Check for other cases in groups of preschool children. Reassure parents that infection is self-limited, mild, and in most instances, asymptomatic with no serious health effects following the disease period.