



THIS IS AN EXERCISE

Atypical Viral Encephalitis Health Alert

**For Immediate Release
October 15, 2018**

Health Alert: Atypical viral encephalitis has been reported in cities across the country during the last 36 hours. No cases have been identified in Tennessee at this time. However, medical providers should be vigilant in screening for patients entering their healthcare facilities exhibiting the following symptoms: fever, confusion, aggressive behavior, and respiratory symptoms such as cough or signs of pneumonia. These patients should be provided facemasks, encouraged to use cough/sneeze etiquette, and immediately triaged to reduce potential spread within waiting areas. Facilities are asked to immediately notify local public health with suspected cases. Proper precautions should be adhered to with the patient being transferred to a negative pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) and placed on airborne precautions until further notice. If an AIIR is not available, patient should be placed in a single patient room maintaining a closed door. These patients should be provided facemasks, encouraged to use cough/sneeze etiquette, and immediately triaged to reduce potential spread within waiting areas. Facilities are asked to immediately notify local public health with suspected cases.

Healthcare personnel should take caution including the wearing of fit-tested disposable N95 respirators or alternative yet more protective options such as powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) when treating these patients exhibiting these symptoms. If PPE is not available or in limited supply, utilization priority should be given when performing medically necessary aerosol-generating procedures (e.g. intubation, suctioning of airways, or sputum induction) These procedures should be performed within an AIIR when feasible. Personnel entering the rooms of patients in isolation should be restricted to those performing patient care activities.

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