

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

## **ADENOVIRUS**

### **Accompanying: Hand Washing Fact Sheet**

#### **What is Adenovirus?**

Adenovirus is a type of virus that most commonly infects the upper respiratory tract, causing cold-like symptoms, pink-eye (conjunctivitis) or rash illnesses. However, a few adenovirus serotypes can also cause gastrointestinal illness.

#### **What are the signs and symptoms of an Adenovirus infection?**

Adenovirus respiratory infection may include headache, fever, runny-nose, sore throat, and red-waterly eyes. The gastroenteritis form of the virus will present as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

#### **How are Adenovirus infections spread?**

Adenoviruses causing respiratory tract infection are spread through person to person contact (breathing in the virus). The gastroenteritis form of the virus is most often contracted through poor hand washing after an infected person has a bowel movement or by touching objects that have the virus on it.

#### **What is the incubation period of Adenovirus and how long is it contagious?**

The incubation period for respiratory infection varies from 2 to 14 days, however, for gastroenteritis it is 3 to 10 days. Adenovirus infections are most communicable during the first few days of acute illness, but persistent and intermittent shedding of the virus for longer periods is frequent and reinfection can occur.

#### **What should I do if I think I have an Adenovirus infection?**

Children who have these symptoms should see their pediatricians. Children **cannot** attend daycare. School-aged children should be kept at home and will need to be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to class.

#### **How can I prevent myself and others from getting an Adenovirus infection?**

Frequent hand washing, following the guidelines in the accompanying fact sheet, proper disposal of diapers, disinfecting changing tables, and covering your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing will help stop the spread of the virus.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Orange County, Epidemiology Program at 407-858-1420. You may also visit the Epidemiology Program website, <http://orchd.com/generalHealth/epidemiology/index.asp>, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/adenovirus/about/index.html>, or the DOH-Orange School Health website at <http://orchd.com/personalHealth/schoolHealth/index.asp> for additional information.

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