

Adenovirus



Infectious Disease
Epidemiology &
Prevention Division

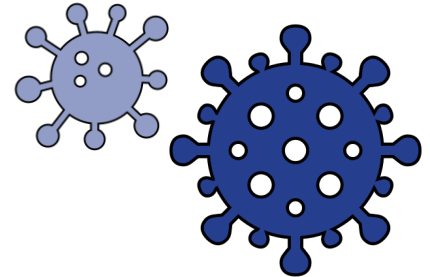
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What is adenovirus?

Adenoviruses can cause a variety of common illnesses such as:

- The common cold
- Bronchitis
- Pneumonia
- Gastroenteritis
- Eye infections
- Bladder inflammation
- Rash illnesses

Severe illnesses can occur in newborns, older individuals, or in people with medical conditions, but illness is typically self-limiting in healthy adults. Some strains may cause more severe illness than other strains. Patients with weakened immune systems, or existing respiratory or cardiac disease, may have severe complications from adenovirus infection. There are more than 50 types of this virus that can cause human infections. Different strains circulate at different times based on movements of people and people's immunity to these different strains.



What are the symptoms of adenovirus?

Symptoms of adenovirus can vary and usually occur three to five days after exposure.

Symptoms include **common cold** symptoms such as:

- Runny nose
- Sinus congestion
- Sore throat
- Pink eye
- Cough

Symptoms of more **severe infection** may include:

- Shortness of breath
- Pneumonia
- Wheezing
- Chest pain
- Fever

Symptoms of **gastroenteritis** may include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach cramps



Fast Facts

- Adenoviruses can cause a variety of common illnesses
- Most infections are mild and require no treatment
- Those with weakened immune systems are at an increased risk of severe illness
- Good hand washing and respiratory etiquette are the best ways to prevent illness

How is adenovirus spread?

The viruses spread in different ways depending on the type of infection and strain. Adenoviruses that cause respiratory and eye infections are spread by contact with an infected person's eyes, nose or mouth. Adenoviruses that cause gastroenteritis are transmitted by contact with an infected person's feces (stool). You can also become infected by touching objects that have the virus on them and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.



How do I know if I have adenovirus?

See your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may order lab tests to see if you are infected with an adenovirus strain.

Who is at risk for getting adenovirus?

Anyone can become infected. Infants and people with weakened immune systems, or respiratory or cardiac disease, are at higher risk of getting sick. You can become infected by having close contact with people who are infected with adenovirus strains.



How is adenovirus treated?

Most infections are mild and require no treatment. Treatment focuses on relieving the symptoms, which may also go away on their own. Serious illnesses are managed by treating symptoms and complications of the infection. Several antiviral drugs have been used to treat serious infections, such as those caused by strain A14.

How is adenovirus prevented?

Good hand washing and respiratory etiquette are the best ways to prevent illness because there is no vaccine for adenovirus.



Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, and throw away used tissues right away.



Frequently and thoroughly wash your hands.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact with those who are ill or exhibiting respiratory symptoms. Do not share cups or utensils with someone who is sick.



Stay home if you are ill; children who are ill should not attend school or child care.

**Adenovirus is not a reportable disease in Indiana, therefore data is not widely available. However, outbreaks are reportable to the Respiratory Team within the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention Division at 317-233-7125.*

For additional information on adenovirus:

cdc.gov/adenovirus/

