**LETTER TO PARENTS**

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|  **Concerning letters to parents:**No letters should be sent without prior consent of the CLSC nurse. |

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daycare or school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** **Enterovirus infections, including hand-foot-and-mouth disease and herpangina**

Dear parents,

Some children have been diagnosed with enterovirus infections at the daycare or school. The majority of enterovirus infections produce either no symptom at all or mild symptoms such as fever, irritability, a cold, diarrhea, redeyes, or red blotches on the skin. These infections disappear without treatment within ten days.

The enterovirus can cause diseases such as:

* Herpangina. This disease is characterized by high fever and painful throat, uvula and soft palate lesions and ulcers which make eating painful.
* Hand-foot-and-mouth disease. This disease is characterized by lesions that turn into ulcers of the tongue and mouth which induce pain and the refusal to eat combined to pimples on the hands, feet, buttocks and thighs, all non-painful and of various sizes and numbers.

The enterovirus can be transmitted by contact with stool, saliva and respiratory tract secretions.

Newborn babies and individuals with weakened immune systems are most at risk of complications from enterovirus infections.

Infection can be prevented by hand-washing and respiratory hygiene (coughing and sneezing into the crook of the elbow).

Children showing symptoms of an enterovirus infection may attend daycare or school unless counter-indicated by a poor general state of health.

If in doubt or if your child’s state of health worries you, see your doctor or your CLSC, and bring this letter to the consultation.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Please print)

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_