



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20130801 West Nile Virus Identified in Mosquitoes in NH
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Distribution Method: Email, Fax
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

DATE: August 1, 2013 **TIME:** 11:00 AM EDT
TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, Nurses, NHHA, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Network, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Zoonotic Alert Team
FROM: José T. Montero, MD, MHCDS – Director of the Division of Public Health Services
SUBJECT: Arboviral Illness Update: West Nile virus Identified in Mosquito Batches—Pelham, NH

NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:

1. Awareness of the first detection of West Nile Virus (WNV) in New Hampshire during 2013. Vigilance is needed during the summer months to consider mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in patients with compatible clinical features. Laboratory testing is recommended and may be arranged by calling 603-271-4496 during business hours or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300 after hours. Forms and human testing information are available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>.
2. Awareness of the identification of Powassan Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus infection in a New Hampshire resident.
3. Prevention measures include avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations. Equine vaccines are available for both EEE and WNV and should be used to protect horses. Vaccines are not available for human use.
4. Reporting of suspected and confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

Background

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) has identified the first WNV-positive mosquito batches (collection of mosquitoes) of the 2013 arboviral season. The mosquitoes were collected in Pelham, NH on July 26, 2013. Identification of WNV in mosquitoes signals the return of WNV to NH and highlights the importance of preventing mosquito bites and surveillance of human disease. Active trapping and testing of mosquitoes is ongoing in the area.

Additionally, a New Hampshire resident was recently confirmed to be infected with Powassan Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus. This individual was hospitalized with encephalitis in May 2013. After WNV, EEE, Lyme disease, and other testing was negative, the clinician submitted specimens to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which confirmed recent infection in this patient with these viruses. Powassan Virus (transmitted by ticks) and Jamestown Canyon Virus (transmitted by mosquitoes) infections are rarely identified in the United States with just 2 and 3 cases, respectively, confirmed nationally in 2013 to date. While rare, clinicians should be aware of their presence, and consider these viruses as possible causes of viral meningoencephalitis in clinically-compatible patients.

When to Suspect Arboviral Illness

Please refer to the Arboviral Illness Health Alert Network Message sent on June 17, 2013 for detailed clinical information and specimen submission instructions:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/arboviral2013.pdf>

Laboratory testing for WNV, EEE, and St. Louis Encephalitis is available at the New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories. Testing for other vectorborne illnesses, such as Powassan Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus, is available at CDC and may be arranged only after consultation with NH DHHS. Please call the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

When to Report Suspected Cases of Arboviral Illness

Clinicians, hospitals, and laboratories should report within 24 hours any patient meeting the following criteria:

1. Any patient with encephalitis or meningitis from July through November, who meet criteria a, b and c below without an alternative diagnosis:
 - a. Fever \geq 38.0 C or 100 F, and
 - b. CNS involvement including altered mental status (altered level of consciousness, confusion, agitation, lethargy) and/or other evidence of cortical involvement (e.g., focal neurologic findings, seizures), and
 - c. Abnormal CSF profile suggesting a viral etiology (a negative bacterial stain and culture) showing pleocytosis with predominance of lymphocytes. Elevated protein and normal glucose levels.

How to Report Suspect Cases of Arboviral Illness

All suspected arboviral cases should first be reported to the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services by telephone. A completed case report form (available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/forms.htm>) must be faxed to the NH Infectious Disease Investigation Section (603-271-0545) *and* a copy submitted with the laboratory specimen(s) to the NH Public Health Laboratories. DPHS staff members are available 24/7 to help determine if the clinical presentation meets the case criteria for viral meningoencephalitis and whether further testing would be appropriate.

For additional information on arboviral illness and maps of recent activity, please visit the NH DHHS website at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/results.htm>. For fact sheets on WNV and EEE, go to <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/publications.htm>

A toll free information line is also available for the public during the summer months: 1-866-273-NILE (6453).

For additional information on WNV and EEE please refer to:

1. NH DHHS toll free information line: 1-866-273-NILE (6453)
2. NH DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>
3. The Centers for Disease Control, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/index.htm>.

If you or other health care providers have questions, please call the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 or 1-800-852-3345, extension 4496 during business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 AM). Nights or weekends call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at 1-800-852-3345 extension 5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

Message Type

Alert: Original alert
Update: Prior alert has been updated and superseded
Cancel: Prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Prior alert has been retracted

Status

Actual: Refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Related to a technical and/or system test

Severity

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Sensitive

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Identifier

A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation

Delivery Time

Indicates the time frame for the delivery of the alert

Acknowledgement

Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the time frame in which a response is required.

Originating Agency

A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program

The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used, please contact:

Denise M. Krol, MS
NH HAN Coordinator
Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

Business Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tel: 603-271-4596
Fax: 603-271-0545