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Arboviral Illness Update: Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus Identified in Mosquito Batches—Londonderry, NH

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

1. Awareness of the first detection of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEE) in New Hampshire in mosquitoes during 2014.
 - o Vigilance is needed during the summer months to consider mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in patients with compatible clinical features.
 - o Laboratory testing may be arranged by calling 603-271-4496 during business hours or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300 after hours.
 - o Forms and testing information are available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>.
2. Advise patients and residents to use prevention measures to avoid mosquito bites by protective clothing, insect repellents, and reducing environmental mosquito populations.
 - o Equine vaccines are available for both EEE and WNV and should be used to protect horses.
 - o Vaccines are not available for human use.
 - o The prevention measures used to prevent mosquito bites are also effective for preventing bites from ticks.
3. Report 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 EEE-positive mosquito batch (collection of mosquitoes) of the 2014 arboviral season. The mosquitoes were collected in Londonderry, NH on August 7, 2014. Identification of EEE in mosquitoes signals the return of EEE to NH and highlights the importance of preventing mosquito bites and surveillance of human and veterinary disease. Active trapping and testing of mosquitoes is ongoing in the area.

As a reminder, in 2013 New Hampshire confirmed the first cases of locally acquired Powassan Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus. Although they are extremely rare in New Hampshire, these arboviral diseases should be included in the differential list when considering the differential diagnosis of viral meningoencephalitis.

Reducing the Risk of Mosquito-borne Disease in Your Community: Mosquito-borne diseases are preventable. The NH DHHS recommends that communities:

- Maintain/enhance surveillance efforts including mosquito pool collection and submission to the NH Public Health Laboratories for testing,

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- Continue to educate your citizens on the public health effects of mosquito-borne diseases and the effective personal protection methods of preventing mosquito-bites (fact sheets, posters, and PowerPoint Presentations for cable access programs are available at: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>,
- Develop, maintain, and implement a local mosquito control plan to address your city or towns' preparation and response to mosquito-borne disease including, public education, surveillance, and mosquito control. The State plan is available at the website listed above and can be used as a template for local communities.

When to Suspect Arboviral Illness

Please refer to the Arboviral Illness Health Alert Network Message sent on June 19, 2014 for detailed clinical information and specimen submission instructions:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/arbovirus-2014.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>

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For additional information on WNV and EEE please refer to:

1. NH DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>
2. The Centers for Disease Control, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/index.htm>.
3. Frequently Asked Questions about West Nile Virus published by the American Society for Microbiology at: <http://academy.asm.org/index.php/faq-series/793-faq-west-nile-virus-july-2013>

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).

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

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