



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20120921 Veterinary Cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

DATE: September 21, 2012 **TIME:** 12:00 EDT

TO: Physicians, Nurses, Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Emergency Departments, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, NHHHA, Public Health Network, Zoonotic Alert Team, DPHS Management Team, NH Health Officers, MMRS, and MRC

FROM: Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD, Deputy State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: First Veterinary Cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus in NH in 2012

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

1. Consider the diagnosis of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), or other arboviral illnesses, in people with clinically compatible illnesses. Laboratory testing may be arranged by calling (603) 271-4496 during business hours or (603) 271-5300 after hours. Forms and testing information are available at:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/providers.htm>
2. Report all arboviral illnesses, confirmed or suspected, to the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) within 72 hours at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345, x5300).
3. Remind patients to take preventive measures, including avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations.
4. Review the prior HAN dated July 26, 2012, for additional arboviral background information, including NH epidemiology and arboviral clinical features. This HAN can be found at: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/wnvfirstpositive-md.pdf>

Epidemiology

The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) and NH Public Health Laboratories have confirmed three veterinary cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE): a horse from Derry and two emus from Fitzwilliam, NH. These animals became ill and died within the last week. Identification of animals with EEE signals the presence of EEE in mammal-biting mosquitoes and therefore indicates a higher risk of human infection. Accordingly, NH DPHS has raised the EEE risk levels for human illness in several areas of the southern part of the State.

This year, DPHS has also detected EEE in four mosquito batches collected in Brentwood, Manchester, Sandown, and Newton. Additional trapping and testing of mosquito batches is ongoing in several areas of the state to monitor the geographic extent of EEE activity. There have

been no human cases of EEE in New Hampshire; however, Massachusetts has reported two human cases near its border with New Hampshire.

Prior to these cases, the last veterinary case of EEE in New Hampshire was reported in August 2010. The last human EEE case in New Hampshire was confirmed in September 2009. Nationally in 2012, ten human EEE cases, including three deaths, have been reported by four states (Florida, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Virginia).

For background and additional information, please refer to:

1. Arboviral Update HAN July 26, 2012 (includes clinical guidance and testing information) available at:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/wnvfirstpositive-md.pdf>

2. New Hampshire DHHS Arboviral website (fact sheets, NH surveillance data, case report form):

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>

3. CDC Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases West Nile Virus website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

**For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS
Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496.
After hours or toll free at 800-852-3345, ext. 4496.**

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

Message Type

- Alert: Indicates an original alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been updated and superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Status

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

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 timeframe for 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 timeframe 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