



# New Hampshire Health Alert Network

## Health.Alert@nh.gov

**Status:** Actual  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Severity:** Moderate  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Identifier:** NH-HAN #20120823 Confirmed Case of Human West Nile Virus  
**Delivery Time:** 12 hours  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Originating Agency:** NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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**DATE:** August 23, 2012      **TIME:** 10:00 EDT

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

**FROM:** Jodie Dionne-Odom, MD, Deputy State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** First Human Case of West Nile Virus in NH in 2012

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

1. Considering diagnosis of West Nile Virus (WNV) in people with clinically compatible illnesses. Laboratory testing is recommended and 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 WNV, 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. Prevention measures including avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations.

### **Epidemiology**

The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) has recently identified a human case of neuroinvasive West Nile Virus (WNV) in an adult who resides in Manchester, NH. The individual was admitted to a NH hospital during this month and fortunately recovered and was discharged. The NH Public Health Laboratories confirmed positive WNV test results and MA Public Health Laboratories will be running additional confirmatory tests on the sample. This year WNV has been detected in 29 mosquito batches collected in Manchester so far and local spraying is planned to begin on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Additional trapping and testing of mosquitoes is ongoing in several areas of the state and mosquito batches have also tested positive this year in Nashua, Salem, Seabrook, North Hampton and Brentwood.

Prior to this case, the last human WNV case in NH was reported and confirmed in September 2010. Nationally, as of August 21st, a total of 1118 human WNV cases have been reported by 38 states (56% neuroinvasive disease) and this includes 41 deaths. Approximately 75% of the human cases have been reported from 5 states (Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota and Oklahoma). This is the highest activity noted for West Nile Disease at this point in the season since WNV was first described in the US in 1999.

**For background and additional information, please refer to:**

1. Arboviral Update HAN July 26, 2012 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.**

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## 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](mailto:Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us)

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