



# New Hampshire Health Alert Network Health.Alert@nh.gov

**Status:** Actual  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Severity:** Moderate  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Identifier:** NH-HAN #20120801-1 West Nile Virus Identified in Mosquito Batch  
**Delivery Time:** 12 hours  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Distribution Methods:** Email, Fax  
**Originating Agency:** NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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**DATE:** August 1, 2013 **TIME:** 11:30 AM EDT  
**TO:** New Hampshire Health Officers and Deputy Health Officers, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Network, MMRS, MRC, Zoonotic Alert Team, DHHS Outbreak Team and DPHS Management 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.
2. Prevention measures including avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations.
3. Equine vaccines are available for both Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and WNV and should be used to protect horses. Vaccines are not available for humans.
4. Awareness of the presence of other rare infections in New Hampshire that are also transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks. Fortunately, the prevention measures used to prevent EEE and WNV will also help prevent other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks.

## **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. 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. 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, the public should be aware of their presence in New Hampshire, and take precautions to prevent these and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks.

**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,
- 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.

**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>
4. 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>

**For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, Division of Public Health Services' 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:**

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 NH HAN Coordinator  
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**Business Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
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