



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20120726 West Nile Virus Identified in Mosquito Batch
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

DATE: July 26, 2012 **TIME:** 9:00 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: Jodie Dionne-Odom, MD, NH Deputy State Epidemiologist
SUBJECT: West Nile virus Identified in Mosquito Batch—Manchester

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

1. 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. Laboratory testing is recommended and may be arranged by calling (603) 271-4496 during business hours or (603) 271-5300 after hours. Forms and human testing information are available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>.
2. 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.
3. Suspected and confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases should be reported to the NH DPHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

Background

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) has identified the first WNV-positive mosquito batch (collection of mosquitoes) of the 2012 arboviral season. The mosquitoes were collected in Manchester, NH on July 19, 2012. 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.

Arboviruses in NH include West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus, both transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. The viruses are maintained in a bird-mosquito cycle with humans considered incidental hosts. The time of highest risk for human infection in NH has been identified between July and October. Year-round transmission is possible in some geographic locations in the U.S.

During last season (2011), there were 712 human cases of WNV reported in the US. Neuroinvasive Disease (meningitis and/or encephalitis) was recorded in 486 cases, while 226 cases were diagnosed with milder West Nile fever. There were 4 cases of EEE reported in the US. In NH, there were nine WNV-positive mosquito batches and no human or veterinary cases. There were no EEE-positive mosquito batches, humans, or animals. The last human case of WNV in NH was reported in 2010 and the last EEE human case was reported in 2009.

When to Suspect Arboviral Illness

The incubation period following the bite of an infected mosquito ranges from 3 to 14 days. Most arboviral infections are mild and non apparent. Mild forms of disease normally present as a febrile illness but sudden onset of symptoms can be seen with headache, myalgias and arthralgias. Approximately 20% of those infected with WNV develop a mild illness known as West Nile Fever.

The more severe forms of arboviral infection include altered mental status and/or neurological dysfunction (cranial and peripheral neuritis or other neuropathies, including acute flaccid paralysis syndrome). A minority of patients with severe disease develop a diffuse maculopapular or morbilliform rash. Approximately 1 in 150 WNV infections will result in severe neurological disease with encephalitis more common than meningitis. Older patients are at additional risk of developing severe West Nile Virus infections. For EEE, approximately one-third of all people who develop clinical encephalitis will die from the disease. Among those who recover, many suffer from permanent brain damage and severe disease can be seen in any age group, including children.

The typical laboratory findings are normal or elevated total leukocyte counts, lymphocytopenia and anemia, and hyponatremia in peripheral blood. Examination of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shows pleocytosis (usually with a predominance of lymphocytes), elevated protein, and normal glucose levels. For about one-third of WNV patients, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) shows enhancement of the leptomeninges, the periventricular areas, or both, while MRI of EEE patients often reveal abnormalities of the basal ganglia and thalami.

Treatment is supportive, often involving hospitalization, intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections for patients with severe disease.

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 (attached) 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. Specimen submission guidelines are attached as well.

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).

Attachments:

- 1) NH Arboviral Case Report Form
- 2) Laboratory Submission Guidelines for Arboviral Testing

For additional information on WNV and EEE please refer to:

1. Our toll free information line: 1-866-273-NILE (6453)
2. Our 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/westnile/clinicians/>.

If you or other health care providers have questions, please call Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 or 1-800-852-3345, extension 4496 during business hours (8 am to 4:30 pm). 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 AM – 4 PM
Tel: 603-271-4596
Fax: 603-271-0545

**New Hampshire Case Report
Arboviral Infection
Encephalitis/Meningitis**

This form must be faxed to the NH DHHS Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance Section (603-271-0545) and a copy submitted with the laboratory specimen(s) to the NH Public Health Laboratories

PATIENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Male Female
Last First MI mm dd yy

Home Address: _____ Homeless Yes No
Street City State Zip

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

RACE White Black/African American Asian Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander American Indian/Alaska Native Unknown
ETHNICITY Unknown Hispanic Non-Hispanic

CLINICAL INFORMATION

Current Diagnosis: Encephalitis Meningitis Other _____

Hospitalized? Yes No If yes, Hospital: _____

Date of Admission: ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Transfer: ____/____/____

Physician/Provider: _____ Phone: _____

SYMPTOMS: Date of first symptoms ____/____/____ Date of first *neurological* symptoms ____/____/____

	Yes	No	Unk		Yes	No	Unk		Yes	No	Unk
Fever \geq 100°F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disorientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigidity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Highest Temp. (if known): _____ °F				Delirium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cranial Nerve Palsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headache	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lethargy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stiff Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stupor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location: _____			
Tremor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Convulsion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vomiting/Nausea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle Weakness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paralysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hyperreflexia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hemorrhage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seizures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle Pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____											

OUTCOME Recovered Residual Symptoms Died Unknown If patient died, date of death ____/____/____

LABORATORY INFORMATION/TEST RESULTS (attach laboratory sheets)

Acute specimens (serum or CSF) must be collected within 3 to 10 days after onset of symptoms. Convalescent specimens should be collected 2-3 weeks after acute sample. If CSF is collected and submitted, please include serum sample.

CSF (specify units) Date ____/____/____ Abnormal? Yes No Unknown Glu _____ Prot _____ RBC _____

WBC _____ Diff. Segs% _____ Lymphs% _____ Gram stain _____ Bacterial Culture _____

Fungal/Parasitic tests _____ Viral test results (Culture/Serology/PCR) _____

CBC (specify units) Date ____/____/____ WBC _____ Diff.Segs% _____ Lymphs% _____

MRI Date ____/____/____ Result _____

CT Date ____/____/____ Result _____

EMG Date ____/____/____ Result _____

ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT Yes No Unk If Yes, list below. _____ Date Started ____/____/____

REPORTED BY: _____ DATE OF REPORT: ____/____/____

Phone _____ Pager _____



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6527
603-271-4496 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4496
Fax: 603-271-0545 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

José Thier Montero
Director

NH Public Health Laboratories

How to Collect and Submit Clinical Specimens for Arboviral Testing

All suspect arbovirus cases should be reported to the Communicable Disease Control Section at 1-800-852-3345, ext. 4496 or the Public Health Laboratories at (603) 271-4661 before specimens are submitted.

Diagnostic testing: The arboviral testing panel is a serological test for West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLE), and may include Powassan virus (depending on availability of reagents).

- The most efficient diagnostic method measures IgM antibodies in CSF or serum collected within 8 days of illness onset. The PHL uses the Microsphere Immunoassay (MIA) for detection of IgM antibody.
- Since the MIA is a preliminary test, Plaque Reduction Neutralization test (PRNT) is required for case confirmation.
- The IgM antibody does not cross the blood-brain barrier; IgM antibody in CSF strongly suggests central nervous system infection.
- Serologic tests have a lower sensitivity due to cross-reactivity to related flaviviruses (e.g., yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, dengue) and the persistence of WNV IgM antibodies in serum for 6 months or longer after infection.

Fee Schedule:

TEST	CPT
Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus antibodies, IgM	86652
St. Louis Encephalitis virus antibodies, IgM	86653
West Nile Virus (WNV) antibodies, IgM	86788

All specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratories will be screened for EEE, SLE, and WNV.

The Total Cost Per Screen is \$105.00.

Note: All spinal fluid submissions must be accompanied by a corresponding serum sample. There will be only a single charge for the paired specimens.

Specimens:

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF): As early as the first few days of illness, IgM antibody can be demonstrated in CSF by MIA.

Since other viruses can cause encephalitis, culture for additional viruses (other arboviruses, enteroviruses, and herpesviruses) may be performed at the discretion of the laboratory.

Submit 2-5 ml in sterile, empty, screw-capped container.

- **Serum:** Acute serum (3ml) should be collected and sent immediately to PHL for testing. Serum will be tested for IgM arboviral antibody. If specimen is IgM positive, then a convalescent specimen will be requested to determine the timing of infection.

Ideal timing of specimens for serology:

Specimen	Timing
Acute	3 to 10 days after onset of symptoms
Convalescent	2-3 weeks after acute sample

All spinal fluid submissions must be accompanied by a corresponding serum sample.

The following information is critical for accurate interpretation of test results and should be recorded on the accompanying case report form:

- Date of onset of disease symptoms
- Date of specimen collection
- Unusual immunological status of patient (e.g. immunosuppression)
- Brief clinical summary including suspected diagnosis (e.g., encephalitis or meningoencephalitis)
- Current address and travel history to flavivirus-endemic areas
- History of prior vaccination against flavivirus disease (e.g., yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, or Central European encephalitis)
- Disease history (e.g., previous history of viral encephalitis or Dengue fever)

Procedure for submission of serum or CSF:

1. Perform lumbar puncture or venipuncture (SST or whole blood tube) by standard aseptic technique.
2. Label the specimen tubes with patient's full name and the date of collection.
3. If possible, centrifuge blood to separate serum.
4. For CSF, tightly seal cap and then wrap parafilm around seal to provide additional protection from leakage during transport.
5. Fill out requisition form completely, being sure to request "arboviral serology"
6. Place CSF inside zip-lock biohazard bag and seal.
7. Place blood tube inside inner metal liner. Be sure there is enough absorbent material to cushion tubes in transit or to absorb liquid in case of leaking or broken tubes. Cap liner tightly.
8. Wrap the requisition form around the OUTSIDE of the inner metal liner.
9. Insert the metal liner into the outer cardboard container, and cap tightly. Make certain that the mailing container is labeled with the name and address of the NH PHL.
10. Mail first class or hand/courier deliver to the PHL. For emergency pickup after hours, contact the PHL at 1-800-852-3345. Refrigerate at 2-8° C if it is not possible to send specimen immediately.

The arboviral collection kit consists of:

- ❖ A labeled cardboard outer mailing container
- ❖ An aluminum inner liner
- ❖ An SST vacutainer blood collection tube
- ❖ A polypropylene tube and parafilm for transport of CSF
- ❖ Absorbent material
- ❖ Requisition form

To order specimen collection kits, please call 271-4661, or 1-800-852-3345, extension 4661. For further technical information regarding diagnostic testing, please call Denise Bolton, at 271-3684, or 1-800-852-3345, extension 3684.