FAX COVER PAGE

To: Hudson, HealthOfficer
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From: NHGOV Notification System (Phone: 1-888-560-2936)

Subject: Arboviral Illness Update: West Nile Identified

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Arboviral Illness Update: West Nile Virus Identified in Mosquito Batch—Manchester, NH

Key Points and Recommendations:

1. The first detection of West Nile Virus (WNV) in New Hampshire for 2015 has occurred in a mosquito batch from Manchester, NH.
2. Healthcare providers should not rely on the presence or absence of positive mosquito testing as a criterion for whether or not to test a patient for WNV or EEE.
   - Healthcare providers should consider mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), in patients with compatible clinical syndromes.
   - Laboratory testing may be arranged by calling 603-271-4496 during business hours or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300 after hours.
   - Forms and testing information are available at http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/forms.htm.
3. Residents and visitors of NH are advised to use prevention measures to avoid mosquito bites, including wearing protective clothing, applying insect repellents, and reducing environmental mosquito populations.
   - Equine vaccines are available for both EEE and WNV and should be used to protect horses.
   - Vaccines for WNV and EEE are not available for human use.
   - Prevention measures used to prevent mosquito bites are also effective for preventing tick bites.
4. Healthcare providers should 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 WNV-positive mosquito batch (collection of mosquitoes) of the 2015 arboviral season. The mosquitoes were collected in Manchester, NH on September 9, 2015. Identification of WNV in mosquitoes signals the return of WNV to NH and highlights the importance of preventing mosquito bites and conducting surveillance for human and veterinary disease. Active trapping and testing of mosquitoes is ongoing in the area. In 2014, there were no human cases of WNV and one positive mosquito batch. For EEE in 2014, there were three human cases (two fatal), three animal cases, and 18 mosquito batches that tested positive. There have been no EEE detections in NH yet in 2015.

Mosquito surveillance occurs at limited sites primarily in the southeastern parts of NH; the absence of positive mosquito tests does not mean that WNV and EEE are not circulating in your communities. There have been detections of arboviruses throughout NH in prior years, including

extensive areas outside of where mosquito surveillance is currently focused. Healthcare providers should consider testing patients for mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), in patients who present with compatible clinical syndromes (see guidance below).

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 batch collection and submission to the NH Public Health Laboratories for testing,
- Continue to educate 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 preparation and response to mosquito-borne diseases 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 July 1, 2015 for detailed clinical information and specimen submission instructions:

http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/arboviral-2015.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 ≥ 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 at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300). 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

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

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 Thom Flynn at 603-271-4596 or email tdflynn@dhhs.state.nh.us

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