

Arboviral Illness Update: West Nile Identified

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

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).

Status: Actual

Message Type: Alert

Severity: Moderate

Sensitivity: Not Sensitive