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Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network
Health.Alert@nh.gov
August 22, 2014, 1730 EDT (5:30 PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20140822



First Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis

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

1. Awareness of the first identified human infection with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus in New Hampshire in 2014.
 - o 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.
 - o Laboratory testing may be arranged by calling 603-271-4496 during business hours or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300 after hours.
 - o Forms and testing information are available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/providers.htm>.
2. Advise patients and residents to use prevention measures to avoid mosquito bites by protective clothing, insect repellents, and reducing environmental mosquito populations.
3. 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).

Epidemiology:

The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) has identified a human case of neuroinvasive Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEv) in an adult who resides in Conway, NH. This individual became ill on August 13, 2014, and is believed to have acquired illness in the Conway, NH, area and is currently hospitalized in critical condition.

To date, EEEv has been detected in 5 mosquito batches this year in the towns of Candia, Derry, and Londonderry. There is no routine surveillance for arboviruses in mosquitoes in the Conway area; however, deer and moose serosurveys confirm the presence of EEEv in all areas of NH including the most northern parts of the state. Prior to this case, the last human EEEv case in NH occurred in September 2009 with 11 additional cases occurring from 2004 (1), 2005 (7), and 2007 (3). Nationally, as of August 20, 2014, one other human EEE case has been reported from New York.

For additional information, please refer to previous Arboviral Update HANs:
View or download NHHAN Messages at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/han.htm>

If you or other health care providers have questions, please call the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 or 1-800-852-3345, extension 4496 during business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 AM). On nights or weekends call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at 1-800-852-3345 extension 5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

Attachments: None

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20140822 First Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Distribution Method: Email, Fax
Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Network, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, New Hampshire Health Officers and Deputy Health Officers, MMRS, MRC, and Zoonotic Alert Team
From: Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD – Deputy State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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