



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

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20110804-1 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: August 4, 2011 **TIME:** 14:00 EDT
TO: New Hampshire Health Officers and Deputy Health Officers, Public Health Network, MMRS, MRC, Zoonotic Alert Team, DHHS Outbreak Team and DPHS Management Team
FROM: Sharon Alroy-Preis, MD, MPH, NH State Epidemiologist
SUBJECT: West Nile virus Identified in Mosquito Batch—Nashua

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

1. Emphasize prevention measures including avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations.
2. An equine vaccine for WNV is available and should be used to protect horses. There is no recommended vaccine for humans.

WNV-positive mosquito batch: The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) has identified the first WNV-positive mosquito pool (collection of mosquitoes) of the 2011 arboviral season. The mosquitoes were collected in **Nashua**, NH, and represent increased disease risk for that region. 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.

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 State Public Health Laboratory 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.state.nh.us>),

- 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. *Healthy Insights* message June 10, 2011
(<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/arboviralnh.pdf>)
2. Our toll free information line: 1-866-273-NILE (6453)
3. Our website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm>
4. The Centers for Disease Control, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>.

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance Section 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
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