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Mosquito-Borne Diseases Update, 2023

Key Points and Recommendations:

- Risk for West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV), and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) infection is present in NH and will increase into the summer and fall. The first detection of JCV from a mosquito-specimen this season has been [identified in a collection from the municipality of Keene](#).
- Counsel patients about how to [prevent mosquito bites](#).
- Consider testing for mosquito- and certain tick-borne (i.e., Powassan) infections in patients presenting with signs/symptoms of meningitis or encephalitis.
- Report all suspect or confirmed mosquito-borne infections to the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) within 24 hours by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health nurse on call).
- CDC is offering a new Continuing Education (CE) training module on the [Diagnosis and Management of West Nile Virus Infection](#)

Background

New Hampshire has identified local transmission of three mosquito-borne diseases: West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV), and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV). The risk for JCV likely begins as soon as the snow melts and mosquitoes emerge ([Poggi et al. J. Med. Entomol. April 2023](#)). The greatest risk in NH for human mosquito-borne infection due to WNV and EEEV is in the later summer months, between July and October. Risk for these infections increases through the summer and into fall until a hard frosts kills mosquitoes.

For towns that are engaged in mosquito trapping and control, NH DPHS supports mosquito testing at the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) for WNV, EEEV and JCV. Mosquito trapping and testing occurs from June through mid-October, primarily in the southeastern part of the State, to help inform communities about potential risk. Even in communities where there is no mosquito trapping/testing, people remain at risk for WNV, EEEV, and JCV.

A weekly report of NH's mosquito, animal, and human testing information, alongside a map of municipalities conducting mosquito surveillance activities can be found at the [NH DHHS Mosquito-Borne Illnesses website](#).

Testing

Testing for EEEV and WNV is available through clinical reference laboratories. The NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) can also help test for WNV, EEEV, and JCV. To request testing through the NH PHL, clinicians must submit a [Laboratory Test Requisition](#) form with the appropriate specimen; please include symptom onset date to avoid delays.

See [How to Collect and Submit Clinical Specimens for Arboviral Testing](#).

Reporting

Clinicians and laboratories should report within 24 hours any patient suspected of having a mosquito-borne disease, especially any patient with encephalitis or meningitis from April through November, who meet criteria below without an alternative diagnosis:

- Fever \geq 38.0 C or 100 F, and
- 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
- Abnormal CSF profile suggesting a viral etiology (e.g., negative bacterial stain and culture, pleocytosis with predominance of lymphocytes, elevated protein, normal glucose).

After the initial phone report, a [Case Report Form](#) should be faxed to 603-696-3017 *and* a copy submitted with the laboratory specimen(s) to the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL). NH DPHS staff members are available 24/7 to assist and to support testing.

Additional Information:

- CDC's [West Nile Virus](#) website
- CDC's [Eastern Equine Encephalitis](#) website
- CDC's [Jamestown Canyon Virus](#) website
- NH DPHS [Mosquito Surveillance and Control](#) website
- NH DPHS [Mosquito-Borne Illnesses](#) website

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov or visit www.nhhan.org.

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Attachments: None