



# New Hampshire Health Alert Network

## Health.Alert@nh.gov

**Status:** Actual  
**Severity:** Moderate  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Identifier:** NH-HAN #20100806-1 Arboviral Update for Public Health Partners  
**Delivery Time:** 12 hours  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Originating Agency:** NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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**DATE:** August 6, 2010

**TIME:** 1530 EDT

**TO:** NH Health Officers, DPHS Outbreak Team, Zoonotic Alert Team, DPHS-  
Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Public Health Network  
Coordinators, MMRS, MRC

**FROM:** Jodie Dionne-Odom, MD, Deputy State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Increased arboviral activity in surrounding states

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

1. There are new reports of mosquito pools positive for arbovirus in most New England states during the past several weeks. New Hampshire has not yet identified any positive mosquitoes in the 446 pools that have been tested as of 7/31/10.
2. Emphasize prevention measures for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) including avoiding mosquito bites by use of protective clothing and insect repellents, and environmental reduction of mosquito populations.
3. An equine vaccine for EEE and WNV is available and should be used to protect horses. There is no recommended vaccine for humans.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) has received reports of increased early arboviral activity in surrounding states. As of August 5, 2010, Massachusetts had identified 35 positive mosquito pools and two positive horses for EEE. Maine also identified a wild bird that tested positive for EEE in the past week. WNV carrying mosquitoes have been identified in 4 pools in MA and one pool in central-eastern Vermont. To date, there have been two human deaths from EEE in Florida and two deaths due to WNV in Arizona (45 human WNV cases nationwide as of 8/3/10).

**Background:** EEE and WNV are mosquito-borne viral diseases. The transmission cycle is predominately between birds and mosquitoes. Infection may be transmitted to mammals, including humans, through the bite of a mammal-biting infected mosquito. Infected horses, alpacas, and people are unable to spread the infection to others. The transmission cycle is most common in areas with freshwater swamps.

Since 2006, four human cases of EEE have been identified among NH residents, most recently a single case in October 2009. State surveillance has shown that arboviral activity in NH occurs from July through October and ongoing surveillance efforts at DHHS continue to monitor activity for both WNV and EEE.

**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.

We have established a toll free information line and a web site for WNV and EEE information. The phone number is 1-866-273-NILE (6453) and the web address is <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CDCS/West+Nile+Virus/default.htm>. There you will find numerous fact sheets addressing the many aspects of arboviral illness, current surveillance and risk information, as well as links to other informative sites.

**For questions on the content of this Health Alert, please contact NH DHHS Communicable Disease Control at 603-271-4496 or toll free at 800-852-3345, ext. 4496.**

Attachment: EEE Fact Sheet

## DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

### Message Type

- Alert: Indicates an original alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been updated and superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

### Status

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event  
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert  
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

### 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 timeframe for 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 timeframe 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:**

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