



First Confirmed Case of Chikungunya Virus in West Virginia

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities
FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health
DATE: July 1, 2014
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS
OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

This alert is to provide an update on Chikungunya virus in West Virginia and the United States. The first imported case of Chikungunya virus has been confirmed in the state. The case traveled to Haiti and became symptomatic upon return to the United States. Over twenty states and/or territories have reported imported cases. Outbreaks have occurred in countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Oceania/Pacific Islands.

Symptoms of Chikungunya virus usually begin 3-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and include fever, joint pain, rash, headache, muscle pain, and joint swelling. Symptoms can be severe, but the disease does not often result in death. Persons at risk for severe disease include newborns and adults over 65 years of age.

Cases are strongly encouraged to avoid mosquito bites during the first 1-2 weeks from illness onset as the risk of transmitting the virus to a biting mosquito is highest during this time period. Infected mosquitoes can bite people, resulting in locally-acquired cases of disease.

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health would like to bring the following key points to your attention:

- For the most up to date information about Chikungunya, please visit our website at: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/zoonosis/mosquito/pages/chikungunya.aspx>.
- Providers should report any suspected cases of Chikungunya virus to the local health department within 24 hours to facilitate diagnosis and testing, and to mitigate the risk of local transmission.
- Testing for Chikungunya virus must be arranged through the local health department. The West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services will then coordinate shipment of specimens to CDC for diagnostic testing.
- There is no treatment for Chikungunya virus. Cases are advised to get plenty of rest, keep hydrated, and relieve acute pain and fever with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- Differential diagnoses for Chikungunya virus infection may vary based on travel history and exposures.
- Dengue and Chikungunya viruses are transmitted by the same mosquitoes and have similar clinical presentations. It is important to rule out Dengue fever in order to appropriately manage the disease.

For more information, contact your local health department or Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (800) 423-1271, ext. 1 or (304) 558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.