



Mosquito-borne Disease Season Alert, 2014

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers

FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

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Mosquito-borne diseases occur annually in West Virginia beginning in May and peaking in August–September, coinciding with mosquito activity. Arboviral infections, particularly La Crosse encephalitis (LAC), are the most common type of mosquito-borne disease identified in West Virginia. In 2013, 11 confirmed and probable LAC cases were reported. Persons with severe arboviral infection will often have symptoms of encephalitis; please be vigilant for such cases and ensure that all hospitalized patients with encephalitis undergo appropriate testing during mosquito season.

The preferred diagnostic test for arboviral encephalitis is virus-specific IgM antibodies in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or serum. Testing for a complete Arbovirus panel is available free-of-charge at the Bureau for Public Health's (BPH) Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Please see: www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm or call OLS at (304)-558-3530.

Local health departments do patient home visits to identify mosquito breeding sites for abatement and provide education on mosquito-borne disease prevention. Thus, prompt reporting of possible mosquito-borne disease cases to local health officials (as required by 64CSR7) is *critical* to our efforts. Travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne disease (i.e. malaria, dengue) should also be reported to local health officials in accordance with the BPH Legislative Rule for Reportable Diseases, Events and Conditions, 64CSR7.

For more information about infectious diseases (including mosquito-borne diseases) in West Virginia, please visit: www.dide.wv.gov. You may also contact your local health department or call the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) toll-free in West Virginia at (800)-423-1271. Thank you in advance for helping us in this effort! For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or locally at (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.

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