

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network  
[DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov)  
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## Increasing Risk for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Other Mosquito-Borne Diseases

### Key Points and Recommendations:

- A New Hampshire resident has been diagnosed with Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) infection resulting in severe central nervous system (CNS) disease and ultimately death; this is the first reported EEE infection in a NH resident since 2014.
- Risk for EEE and other mosquito-transmitted viruses in NH, including West Nile Virus (WNV) and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV), is elevated and will increase into the fall until there is a hard frost that kills mosquitos.
- All mosquito-transmitted viruses can cause severe neurological disease, including meningitis and encephalitis. Approximately one-third of people who develop encephalitis from EEE die from their infection, and many others experience life-long physical or mental disabilities.
- Counsel patients on [preventing mosquito bites](#).
- Test for EEE, WNV, JCV, and also Powassan virus (a tick-transmitted virus) in patients presenting with signs and symptoms of viral meningitis or encephalitis.
- Report all suspect or confirmed mosquito-borne disease to the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) within 24 hours by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300).

### Additional Information:

New Hampshire has local transmission of three mosquito-transmitted viruses: West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE), and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV). The risk for JCV begins early when snow melts and mosquitos emerge, but the highest risk for infection with WNV and EEE is in late summer and fall. Risk is present until a hard frosts kills mosquitos.

NH DPHS supports towns and cities that choose to conduct mosquito trapping and control activities by testing mosquitos at the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) for WNV, EEE, and JCV. Only a minority of NH towns/cities conduct mosquito trapping and testing, which occurs from June through mid-October. Even in communities where there is no mosquito testing, people remain at risk for WNV, EEE, and JCV. A weekly report of NH's mosquito, animal, and human testing can be found [here](#). There have also been many EEE and WNV detections in surrounding states, including in [Massachusetts](#), and [Vermont](#). Therefore, NH and regional data on WNV and EEE activity indicate high risk for the remainder of the summer and fall.

### Testing:

Testing for EEE and WNV is available through clinical reference laboratories. The NH PHL can also help test for WNV, EEE, JCV, and Powassan virus. To request testing through the NH PHL, clinicians must submit a [Laboratory Test Requisition](#) form with the appropriate specimen; please include information about your patient's symptom onset date.

See additional information on [Arboviral Specimen Collection, Storage, and Transport Instructions](#).

### Reporting:

Clinicians should report within 24 hours any patient suspected of having a mosquito-borne disease, including any patient with encephalitis or meningitis that occurs from April through November, who meet the following criteria:

- Fever  $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  
**AND**
- CNS involvement such as altered mental status or other neurologic signs/symptoms (e.g., focal neurologic findings, seizures),  
**AND**
- Abnormal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) suggesting a viral etiology,  
**AND**
- No alternative diagnosis.

Report suspect or confirmed mosquito-borne disease to NH DPHS by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300). Then complete and fax a [Case Report Form](#) to 603-696-3017 and include a copy if submitting a specimen to the NH PHL.

### Additional Resources:

- 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

- 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. – 4:00 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](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov) or visit [www.nhhan.org](http://www.nhhan.org).

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