



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

2014 DOHMH Advisory 30: First Human Cases of West Nile Viral Disease in NYC in 2014 September 9, 2014

Please distribute to staff in the Departments of Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Infection Control, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Nursing, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pediatrics

- **Five West Nile viral infections have been identified in NYC residents in 2014.**
- **West Nile infected mosquitoes have been found in all boroughs in New York City (NYC).**
- **Advise patients, especially adults 60 years and older, to protect themselves from mosquito bites.**
- **West Nile viral disease should be suspected in patients presenting with viral meningitis or encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, and/or symptoms compatible with West Nile fever.**
- **Report all cases of encephalitis, viral meningitis, and West Nile virus or any other arboviral infection with laboratory evidence of current or recent infection in NYC to the Health Department.**

Dear Colleagues,

West Nile viral activity has been increasing in New York City. Five human cases of West Nile viral disease have recently been identified in NYC residents this season: 2 from Brooklyn, 1 from Queens, 1 from Staten Island, and 1 from Manhattan. Positive mosquito pools have been identified in all five boroughs.

(1) First human cases of West Nile viral disease identified in NYC

Three patients were recently hospitalized with viral meningitis and have been discharged. Two additional patients were diagnosed with West Nile fever and did not require hospitalization. All five cases were over the age of 50, and all were likely infected in mid to late August. In addition, three asymptomatic blood donors tested positive in late August and early September for West Nile virus, all of whom reside in Queens.

(2) West Nile virus has been detected in mosquito pools from all NYC boroughs.

Since July 10, 2014 West Nile virus has been identified in over 283 mosquito pools collected primarily in Queens (153) and Staten Island (63), as well as Brooklyn (53), the Bronx (10), and Manhattan (4). The Health Department has increased mosquito surveillance and larviciding in areas with new or persistent West Nile viral activity, and has conducted adulticiding in localized areas where persistently high levels of West Nile viral activity have been detected in mosquitoes.

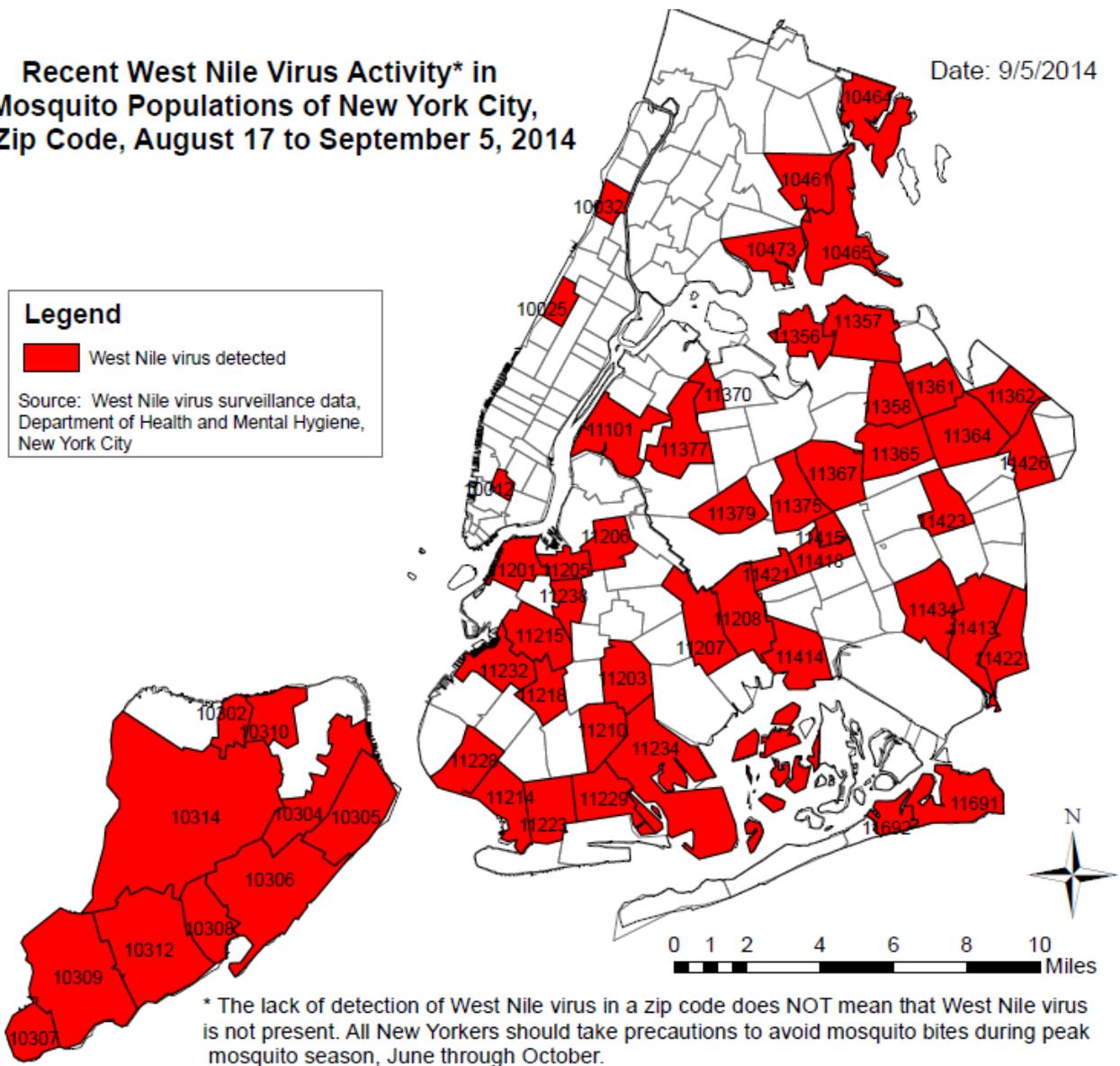
Recent West Nile Virus Activity* in Mosquito Populations of New York City, by Zip Code, August 17 to September 5, 2014

Date: 9/5/2014

Legend

West Nile virus detected

Source: West Nile virus surveillance data, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York City



* The lack of detection of West Nile virus in a zip code does NOT mean that West Nile virus is not present. All New Yorkers should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites during peak mosquito season, June through October.

(3) Providers should advise their patients, especially those 60 years of age and older, to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

With West Nile viral activity increasing in NYC and surrounding areas, health care providers should advise persons, especially adults 60 years of age or older, that West Nile virus is present in NYC, and to take measures immediately to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Prevention measures can include:

- Wearing protective clothing when outdoors from dusk to dawn,
- Using mosquito repellents,
- Ensuring household screens are in good repair, and
- Eliminating standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

(4) Report any patients with positive West Nile virus IgM and/or PCR/NAT tests, and all cases of encephalitis and viral meningitis.

Encephalitis and viral meningitis should be reported routinely throughout the year, as required by law. Arboviral infections, including West Nile virus, with laboratory evidence of recent or current infection should also be reported immediately, as required by law. Fax the completed Universal Reporting Form to 347-396-2632, or call 866-692-3641, OR report via the electronic Universal Reporting Form. Both are accessible on line at:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp-urf.shtml>.

Please call 866-692-3641 with any questions you may have about human surveillance and testing for West Nile virus. If you have questions related to packaging specimens for shipment to the Wadsworth Center for the viral encephalitis PCR panel, please call either the Wadsworth Center's Viral Encephalitis Laboratory at 518-474-4177 (ask for Viral Encephalitis Lab) or the Health Department Public Health Laboratory Virology Section at 212-447-2864.

As always, we appreciate the ongoing cooperation of the medical provider community,

Sally Slavinski, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Sally Slavinski, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Assistant Director
Zoonotic, Influenza and Vector-borne Disease Unit
Bureau of Communicable Disease

Scott Harper, MD
Scott Harper, MD
Director
Zoonotic, Influenza and Vector-borne Disease Unit
Bureau of Communicable Disease

On Line Resources:

1. DOHMH West Nile Virus Guidelines and Recommendations for Health Care Providers, including recent Health Alerts are available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvhcp.shtml>.
2. Universal Reporting Form (September 2009 version) can be downloaded from <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp-urf.shtml>.
3. New York State Department of Health forms and instructions for specimen submission, including Collection and Submission of Specimens for Viral Encephalitis Testing Instructions (June 2010 version), Infectious Diseases Requisition Form, and Viral Encephalitis/Meningitis Case Report Form can be downloaded from <http://www.wadsworth.org/divisions/infdis/enceph/form.htm>.
4. For information on recent activity, personal precautions and larvaciding and adulticiding schedules www.nyc.gov/health/wnv
5. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention West Nile Virus Homepage: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.