



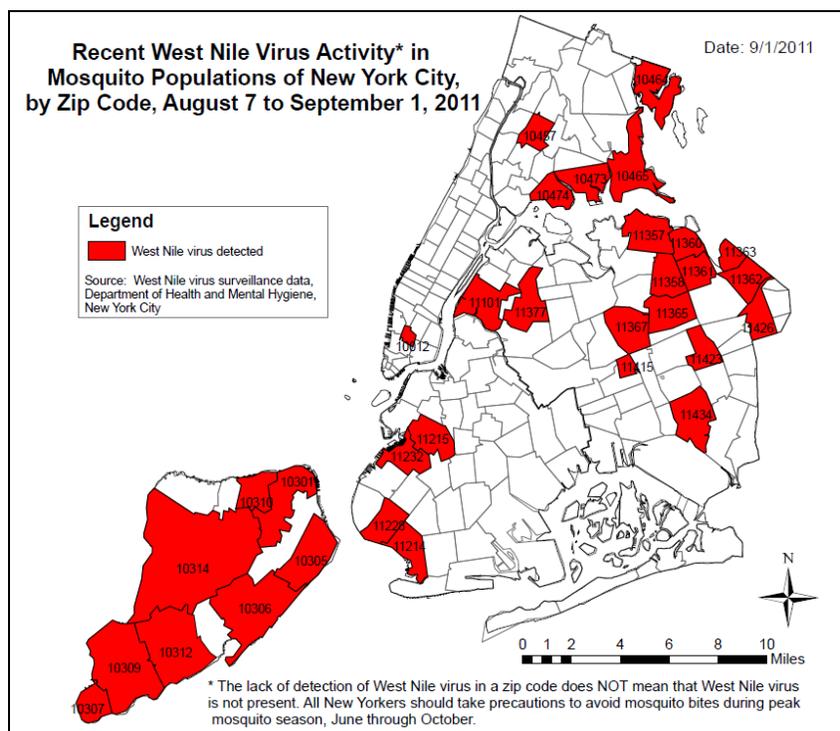
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

2011 DOHMH Advisory #20: Human Cases of West Nile Viral Disease in NYC September 1, 2011

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

We are in the midst of peak West Nile (WN) virus season in New York City (NYC) and surrounding counties. Four cases of WN viral neuroinvasive disease have been identified among NYC residents so far this summer. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) reminds providers to be alert and test for cases of West Nile (WN) viral disease.

- Four human cases of WN viral disease have been identified among NYC residents in August, 2011. Westchester and Suffolk Counties, Connecticut and New Jersey have also reported human cases. WN virus activity has been found in mosquito pools from all five of New York City's boroughs.
- The NYC DOHMH reminds providers to maintain vigilance for WN viral disease during peak adult mosquito season (July 1 – October 31).
 - Include WN virus in the differential diagnosis of patients with viral meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis and/or symptoms compatible with WN fever (symptoms of WN fever may include fever, headache, fatigue, myalgia and/or rash).
 - Currently, the most sensitive screening test for WN virus in humans is IgM enzyme immunoassay (EIA) on cerebrospinal fluid and/or serum. WN virus testing is widely available at commercial laboratories. The DOHMH Public Health Laboratory no longer performs routine testing for WN virus.
 - Promptly report all patients who test positive for WN virus by IgM or PCR/NAT.
 - Routinely report cases of encephalitis and viral meningitis to the DOHMH using the Universal Reporting Form.
 - Guidance on testing for WN virus and reporting cases of WN viral disease, encephalitis and viral meningitis is available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/wnv/wnv-reportinstructions.pdf>.
- Providers should advise their patients, especially adults 50 years and older, to protect themselves from mosquito bites (link to recommendations for personal precautions at the end of this advisory).



Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to alert you that we are in the midst of peak West Nile virus season. Despite rain and cooler temperatures, we continue to detect West Nile virus in mosquitoes in New York City's five boroughs.

(1) Four human cases of West Nile viral disease have been identified in NYC to date in 2011.

Human Cases	NYC	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Total Number of Cases	4	1	1	1	1	0
West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease	4	1	1	1	1	0
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0

The cases include 2 males and 2 females, and the average age is 73 (range 60-82) years. Three of these cases were diagnosed with encephalitis and 1 with viral meningitis. Onset dates range from August 2 – August 21. New Jersey, Connecticut, and Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk counties have also each reported a human case of WN viral disease. As of August 30, 65 cases of WN viral disease have been reported nationally. This number includes 39 neuroinvasive cases and 4 deaths.

(2) West Nile virus has been detected in 173 mosquito pools from all five of NYC boroughs.

Since June 30th, WN virus has been identified in 173 mosquito pools collected in all five boroughs. The DOHMH has increased mosquito surveillance and larviciding in areas with new or persistent West Nile viral activity, and has conducted adulticiding activities in localized areas where persistently high levels of WN viral activity have been detected in mosquitoes.

(4) Providers should advise their patients, especially those 50 years of age and older, to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

With WN viral activity increasing in NYC and surrounding areas, health care providers should advise persons, especially adults 50 years of age or older, that this is peak WN virus season 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,
- use of mosquito repellents,
- ensuring household screens are in good repair, and
- eliminating standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

(5) Report promptly by telephone or fax any patients with positive WN virus IgM and/or PCR/NAT tests, and routinely report all cases of encephalitis and viral meningitis.

The DOHMH reminds medical providers to be alert for possible cases of WN viral disease through the remainder of the peak adult mosquito season (through October). Currently, the most sensitive screening test for West Nile virus in humans is IgM enzyme immunoassay (EIA) on cerebrospinal fluid and/or serum. These tests are widely available at commercial laboratories. Refer to page 2 of the NYC DOHMH Guidelines for West Nile Testing and Reporting Cases of Viral Encephalitis and Meningitis (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/wnv/wnv-reportinstructions.pdf>) for more detail on how to test for WN virus. Any patient with laboratory evidence suggesting a current or recent West Nile virus infection must be reported immediately to DOHMH. To report,

- During business hours:
 - Call the Bureau of Communicable Disease (BCD) at 347-396-2600, or
 - Fax a completed *Universal Reporting Form* (URF) to BCD at 347-396-2753, or
 - Submit the URF electronically (downloadable form or instructions to set up online reporting at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp-urf.shtml>)
- After hours, call the NYC Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or 1-212-POISONS.

If you have questions regarding how to test for WN virus, you may contact the Bureau of Communicable Disease (BCD) at 347-396-2600.

As always, we appreciate our ongoing partnership with health care providers in NYC in reporting and investigating unusual disease manifestations or clusters.

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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. NYC DOHMH Guidelines for West Nile Testing and Reporting Cases of Viral Encephalitis and Meningitis (June 2011 version) are available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/wnv/wnv-reportinstructions.pdf>.
3. Universal Reporting Form (September 2009 version) can be downloaded from <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/hcp-urf.shtml>.
4. 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>.

5. See where West Nile virus has recently been found at
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvactivity.shtml>.
6. Recommendations for personal precautions against mosquitoes can be found at
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvfaq3.shtml>.
7. The West Nile Virus Spray and Aerial Larviciding Schedule is available at
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvspray.shtml>.
8. Centers for Disease Control West Nile Virus Homepage:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.