

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



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****ADVISORY – Important Information****

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TO: Academic, Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, City and County Health Departments, Healthcare, Lab Facilities, County EMA Directors, Maine Medical Association, Northern New England Poison Center, Public Health, EMS Regional Coordinators, Regional Resource Centers, State and Federal Agencies

FROM: Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: **Eastern Equine Encephalitis Positive Mosquito Pool – Maine, 2013**

DATE: Monday, August 12, 2013

TIME: 3:00pm

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PRIORITY: **Medium**

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus Positive Mosquito Pool - Maine, 2013

Maine CDC has confirmed the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) in mosquitoes collected in the state. One mosquito pool (a collection which contains between 1-50 mosquitoes) tested positive for EEE at Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) on August 9th, 2013. The positive pool of *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes was collected on July 16th, 2013 in the town of Alfred in York county.

This is the earliest in the season that Maine has identified EEE, previously the earliest detection was in the beginning of August. In 2012, Maine identified EEE in a flock of pheasants, and had seven mosquito pools test positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Maine also identified our first locally acquired case of WNV in a Maine resident during 2012.

Regionally, other New England states have identified multiple arboviruses this summer. Massachusetts identified EEE in horses and mosquitoes, and WNV in mosquitoes. New Hampshire identified WNV in mosquitoes, and Powassan virus and Jamestown Canyon virus in a human. Vermont identified EEE in mosquitoes and WNV in mosquitoes.

Prevention:

Maine CDC recommends the following preventative measures to protect against EEE, WNV and other mosquito-borne illnesses:

- **Use an EPA approved repellent when outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk** – always follow the instructions on the product's label
- Wear protective clothing when outdoors, including long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks
- Use screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home
- Avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk when many species of mosquitoes are most active
- Drain artificial (non-natural) sources of standing water

Testing:

Maine CDC encourages providers to test for arboviral illness in patients presenting with unexplained encephalitis, meningitis or high fever (greater than 100.4°F or 38°C) during the late summer and early fall.

If arboviral illness is suspected based on clinical findings, serum samples and CSF (if available) should be submitted for testing. Arboviral testing for WNV and EEE can be performed at HETL. HETL requires the submitter to complete the Human Arboviral Specimen submission form. All samples of CSF should be accompanied by a serum sample. Ideally an acute and a convalescent serum sample should be submitted for each patient.

- Acute serum samples should be collected within 14 days of onset of symptoms
- Convalescent serum samples should be collected 10 days to 4 weeks following the acute specimen

Reporting:

Arboviral illness is reportable in Maine. All suspect cases, and positive laboratory reports should be reported by phone to the 24/7 disease reporting and consultation line at 1-800-821-5821 or by fax to 1-800-293-7534.

More Information:

More information on arboviral illness is available at Maine CDC's Vector-Borne Disease website at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/index.shtml>.

Information on testing requirements and submission forms are available at HETL's website at www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab

Information on pesticides and repellents is available at the Maine Board of Pesticides Control website at <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/public/index.htm#mosquito>.