

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



*Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Phone 1-800-821-5821 / Fax 207-287-7443*

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

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TO: Childcare facilities, City and County Health, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, County EMA, Department of Education, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine EMS, Eastern Maine Health, FQHC's, Healthcare, Hospitals, Laboratories, Maine CDC, Maine HealthCare Association, Maine Hospital Association, Maine Medical Association, Maine Primary Care Association, Media, New England contacts, Physicians, Regional Resource Centers, Tribal Health

FROM: Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director

SUBJECT: **Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis – Maine, 2014**

DATE: Friday, October 10, 2014

TIME: 11:00am

PAGES: 2

PRIORITY: Normal

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Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)

First Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus - Maine, 2014

Maine CDC has identified a human case of neuroinvasive Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) in a mature adult who resides in York County. The individual became ill in late August and was hospitalized. Blood samples collected October 1 tested positive for EEE at a commercial lab. The sample was forwarded to Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) where it tested positive on October 9, 2014. Per established protocols, the sample has been sent to the U.S. CDC for further confirmation. The individual is recovering at home. This is the human first case of EEE identified in a Maine resident.

Maine CDC has detected EEE virus in 22 mosquito pools in York County, and an emu in Cumberland County. New Hampshire has identified EEE in humans, mammals and mosquitoes, and Massachusetts has identified EEE in mammals and mosquitoes.

This positive result does not change any recommendations, but should serve as a reminder to avoid mosquito bites and remain vigilant throughout the rest of the season. Mosquitoes may still be active when the temperature is above 50 degrees. Seven mosquito pools collected on September 30 tested positive for EEE at HETL. Due to these positive results, Maine has extended our mosquito trapping season until October 15.

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>.