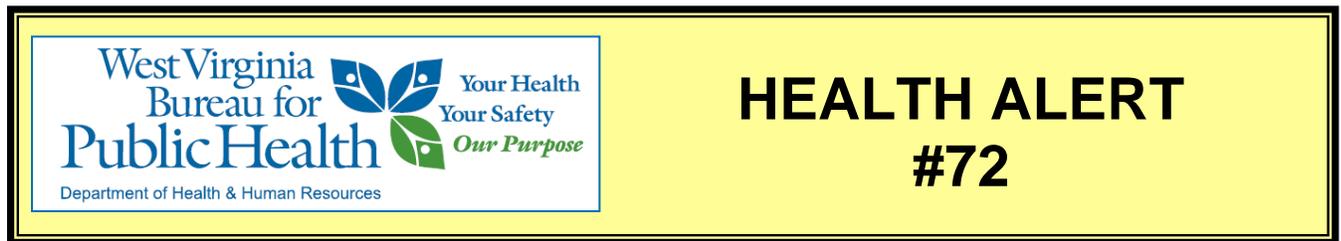


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MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE SEASON ALERT, 2013

TO: ALL West Virginia Healthcare Providers

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: May 6, 2013

Mosquito-borne diseases occur annually in West Virginia beginning in May and peaking in August–September, coinciding with mosquito activity. Arboviral infections, particularly La Crosse encephalitis (LAC), are the most common type of mosquito-borne disease identified in West Virginia. In 2012, 14 confirmed and probable LAC cases were reported. Persons with severe arboviral infection will often have symptoms of encephalitis; please be vigilant for such cases and ensure that all hospitalized patients with encephalitis undergo appropriate testing during mosquito season.

The preferred diagnostic test for arboviral encephalitis is virus-specific IgM antibodies in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or serum. Testing for a complete arbovirus panel is available free-of-charge at the Bureau for Public Health's Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Please see: www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm or call OLS at (304)-558-3530.

To prevent further cases, local health departments do patient home visits to provide education on mosquito-borne disease prevention. Thus, prompt reporting of possible mosquito-borne disease cases to local health officials (as required by 64CSR7) is *critical* to our efforts. Travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne disease (i.e. malaria, dengue) should also be reported to local health officials in accordance with 64CSR7.

For more information about infectious diseases (including mosquito-borne diseases) in West Virginia, please visit: www.dide.wv.gov.

You may also contact your local health department or call the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology toll-free in West Virginia at (800)-423-1271. Thank you in advance for helping us in this effort!

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