



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 1, 2008

TO: Local Health Departments

FROM: Loretta Haddy, PhD
State Epidemiologist, Surveillance and Disease Control

RE: **Arbovirus Surveillance Season:**
La Crosse encephalitis (LAC)
West Nile virus (WNV)
Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)
Saint Louis encephalitis (SLE)

Arbovirus surveillance season starts today. This memorandum offers background information to local health departments in the state of West Virginia. We have prepared resources for your use during the surveillance season.

Enhanced passive surveillance for human cases:

Please alert providers to appropriately test hospitalized patients with encephalitis for LAC, WNV, EEE and SLE. Especially target providers who are likely to see these patients, such as infection control professionals, emergency room physicians and hospitalists. Please feel free to use the following resources:

Provider alert:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Enhanced%20passive%20surveillance%20memo%20in%20WORD.doc>

Provider information sheet:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Arbovirus%20provider%20information%20sheet%202008.pdf>

Specimen collection and submission to Office of Laboratory Services (OLS):

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm>

Bureau for Public Health
Division of Surveillance and Disease Control
350 Capitol Street, Room 125
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3715
(304) 558-5358

Updated arbovirus surveillance protocol:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Arboviral%20Disease%20Surveillance%20Protocol%202008%20FINAL.pdf>

Mosquito surveillance:

Greg Chrislip will be conducting active surveillance for mosquitoes with the assistance of four summer interns. Please report any of the following to him (304-558-3530):

- Mosquito complaints
- Potential West Nile mosquito breeding sites, especially malfunctioning sewage treatment facilities and storm drains, or any site with standing water that is contaminated with organic matter AND located near human populations.

Dead bird surveillance:

Dead birds are accepted for WNV, SLE and EEE testing year-round. Any freshly dead (<24 hours) bird may be accepted for testing. Citizens should be educated to contact their local health departments about dead birds. Local health departments should contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program (IDEP: 800-423-1271) for a 'bird number.' Dead bird reports will no longer be requested by IDEP; however a dead bird log is included for your convenience in tracking dead bird reports in your county. Instructions for specimen collection and submission to the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) are available on our website:

Specimen collection and submission to Office of Laboratory Services (OLS):

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm>

Avian oral swab demonstration video: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/a-z/a-z-wnv.asp>

Dead bird log:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Dead%20bird%20log%20FINAL%202008%20Post%20as%20a%20word%20document.doc>

Public Education:

The following are resources for educating the public on various aspects of mosquito-borne diseases. Please consider sending a media release and educating your citizens on protecting themselves from mosquito-borne illness:

Model press release on arbovirus season:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Arbovirus%20model%20press%20release%20in%20WORD.doc>

Mosquito information sheets and brochures:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/a-z/a-z-Mosquitoes.asp>

Dead bird information sheet:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Birds%20and%20West%20Nile%20Viruses%20%20FINAL%202008.pdf>

Information sheet and brochure on LAC:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/LAC%20Information%20Sheet%20May%202008.pdf>

Information sheet on WNV:

http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/wnv_public_FAQ%20FINAL%202008.pdf

Information sheet on EEE:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/EEE/EEE%20Information%20Sheet%20May%202008.pdf>

Information sheet on SLE:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Mosquito/Public%20Information%20SLE%20May%202008.pdf>

Health department training:

IDEP Second quarter training registration closes on May 8, 2008. To register, visit <https://wv.train.org>. The WVTRAIN Course ID # is 1012665. The training will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 114 Dry Hill Road, Beckley, WV.

Thank you for all the wonderful help and support you give to the citizens of our state. As always, we can be reached for questions at 800-423-1271. Ask for the 'epidemiologist on call.'

DB:LEH/scr

cc: Regional Epidemiologists
Infection Control Professionals
Laboratory Directors
Bureau for Public Health Leadership team
Environmental Health Partners
Public Health Nursing Partners
IDEP
Office of Laboratory Services