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ARBOVIRUS SEASON ALERT, 2010

TO: ALL West Virginia Healthcare Providers

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WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

DATE: May 17, 2010

Arboviral diseases occur annually in West Virginia beginning in May and peaking in August – September, coinciding with mosquito activity. Most commonly seen arboviral diseases in WV include LaCrosse and West Nile, but SLE and EEE are also included in this grouping. Persons with severe arboviral infection will often have symptoms of encephalitis; please be vigilant for such cases and make certain that all hospitalized patients with encephalitis undergo appropriate testing.

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 <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm> or call OLS at (304)-558-3530 for instructions on arboviral specimen collection or submission.

Historically, LaCrosse encephalitis has been the most common type of arbovirus in the state and generally affects children under the age of 15 years. Local health departments do a patient home visit on all confirmed and probable cases of arboviral disease to identify mosquito breeding sites and provide education about mosquito-borne disease prevention. Thus, prompt reporting of possible arboviral cases to local public health officials (as required by 64CSR7) is *critical* to our efforts to prevent further cases.

For more information about infectious diseases (including arbovirus) in West Virginia, please visit <http://www.wvdep.org>. You may also contact the local health department (http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvlocalhealth/lhd_profiles/lhdreport/index.asp) 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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