



**Mosquito-borne Disease Season Alert**

**TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities**

**FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP, Commissioner and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

**DATE: April 16, 2015**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO MEMBERS, STAFF, AND OTHER PARTNERS.

Mosquito-borne diseases occur annually in West Virginia beginning in early spring and peaking in August and September, coinciding with mosquito activity. Arboviral infections, particularly La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) and West Nile virus (WNV), are the most common types of mosquito-borne diseases identified in West Virginia. The incidence of mosquito-borne diseases varies from year to year. In 2013, 11 confirmed and probable LAC cases were reported; in 2014, one probable and one confirmed LAC cases were reported. One WNV case was reported in 2013, and two WNV viremic blood donor cases were reported in 2014. Persons with severe arboviral infections will often have symptoms of encephalitis. Please be vigilant in identifying such cases, and ensure that all hospitalized patients with encephalitis undergo appropriate arboviral disease testing during mosquito season.

Diagnostic testing for arboviral diseases is available free-of-charge at the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (WVOLS). The preferred diagnostic testing for these diseases is virus-specific IgM antibodies in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and serum. WVOLS offers testing for a complete arbovirus panel. Visit <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm> or call WVOLS at (304)-558-3530.

Local health departments visit homes of patients to identify mosquito breeding sites for abatement and provide education on mosquito-borne disease prevention. Thus, prompt reporting of mosquito-borne disease cases to local health officials is very important to our surveillance efforts. Travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne diseases (e.g. malaria, dengue, chikungunya) should also be reported to local health officials in accordance with the Legislative Rule for Reportable Diseases, Events, and Conditions (64CSR7).

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases in West Virginia, visit the Division of Infectious Disease website at [www.dide.wv.gov](http://www.dide.wv.gov). You may also contact your local health department or call DIDE at (800)-423=1271 ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

**Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.