



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Ricker Hamilton, Commissioner

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

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: All HAN recipients
From: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist
Subject: **West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Pool**
Date / Time: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 1:30pm
Pages: 2
Priority: Normal
Message ID: 2018PHADV015

Abstract:

Maine CDC confirmed the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquitoes collected in the state. One mosquito pool (a collection which contains between 1-50 mosquitoes) tested positive for WNV at Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) on August 28th, 2018. The positive pool of *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes was collected on August 21st, 2018 in the town of Kittery in York county. This is the first positive mosquito test in Maine in 2018.

West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Pool

Maine CDC confirmed the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquitoes collected in the state. One mosquito pool (a collection which contains between 1-50 mosquitoes) tested positive for WNV at Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) on August 28th, 2018. The positive pool of *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes was collected on August 21st, 2018 in the town of Kittery in York county. This is the first positive mosquito test in Maine in 2018.

Maine had not had a positive mosquito pool for WNV since 2015, which was also the last year Maine identified a human WNV infection. Maine CDC announced a case of WNV in a Maine resident earlier this week, which was likely acquired out of state. This positive mosquito pool result underscores the need for prevention against mosquito bites here in Maine.

Prevention:

Maine CDC recommends the following preventative measures to protect against Eastern Equine Encephalitis (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 Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). HETL requires the submitter to complete the Human Arbovirus 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>.
- Maine's weekly arboviral surveillance reports are available at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/arboviral-surveillance.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>.