

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Update #70 - May 4, 2004

On April 21st of this year the NYS laboratory at Wadsworth posted Arthropod Borne virus results other than West Nile virus for Erie County in 2003. Eight of the mosquito pools (10 to 50 like mosquitoes) the Erie County Vector Control Program submitted tested positive for Cache Valley (CV) virus. The mosquitoes were trapped in Grand Island, Tonawanda, Clarence and Lancaster. Before 2003 the last mosquito pool tested positive for CV in Erie County was in Amherst in 1997.

"Cache Valley virus, discovered in Utah in 1956, is widely distributed in the United States and Canada. Cache Valley virus has a wide vertebrate host range, but infections appear to occur most commonly in large vertebrates such as cattle, sheep, horses and white tail deer. CV virus is known to cause abortions and birth defects such as malformed joints and excessive fluid accumulations in the cranium."

The NYS Department of Health does not consider CV virus a public health threat to humans.

The Erie County Health Department will continue to monitor CV virus in our area.

Additional information can be found at <http://biology.nd.edu/grimstad.shtml>

Please address any questions regarding CV or other Arthropod Borne diseases to:
John P. Eiss (716-898-5756) Erie County Department of Health, Vector Control Program.