

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Advisory #87 - West Nile Virus Update - June 18, 2004

As of June 15, 2004, 14 human cases of WNV have been reported to the CDC. Of the 14 cases, 5 were reported as West Nile fever, 9 were reported as West Nile meningitis or encephalitis (neuroinvasive disease) and 0 were clinically unspecified at this time. Cases have been reported in Arizona, California, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount04_detailed.htm

Cases of avian, animal, and/or mosquito have been identified in New York State. NO human cases of WNV have been reported in New York State.

Erie County has identified its first positive crow (Town of Clarence), and the Erie County Vector Control Program continues surveillance through mosquito I.D and testing from all fixed trap sites.

Due to the anticipated return of West Nile Virus, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is asking physicians and other healthcare providers to routinely include WNV testing for patients with viral meningitis or encephalitis during the adult mosquito season (i.e., May through October). Providers should immediately contact the Erie County Health Department at 716-858-7697 (Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:00PM) or 716-898-4225 (evenings, weekends, and holidays) to report suspect cases of WNV and to obtain the required paperwork for collection and submission of clinical samples.

The diagnostic facilities of the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center will perform the WNV testing for all persons in the state for whom such services are not otherwise available. Due to limited laboratory testing capacity, WNV testing will be performed for patients who meet the following criteria:

Suspect Case of Viral Encephalitis

1. Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) Specimen

An adult or pediatric patient with suspected viral encephalitis, characterized by:

- Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}$ C or 100° F, AND
- Altered mental status AND
- An abnormal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) AND
- Hospitalized AND
- At least 1.0ml of CSF obtained

will be tested by ELISA for WNV IgM antibodies and by PCR testing for the viral encephalitis panel. If the above criteria are not met, the CSF will ONLY be tested by ELISA for WNV IgM antibodies. If the patient meets the criteria but there isn't enough CSF, providers can choose to test for either WNV antibodies or for the encephalitis panel.

2. Serum Specimen

Serum will be tested for WNV IgM antibodies by ELISA, WNV polyvalent antibodies by MIA and Arboviral IgG by IFA. Please indicate if it is an acute or convalescent specimen.

Suspect Case of Viral Meningitis

1. Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) Specimen

An adult or pediatric patient (aged 2 years or older) with suspected viral meningitis will be tested by ELISA for WNV IgM antibodies ONLY.

2. Serum Specimen

Serum will be tested for WNV IgM antibodies by Elisa, WNV polyvalent antibodies by MIA and Arboviral IgG antibodies by IFA. Please indicate if it is an acute or convalescent specimen.

For more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>