



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Advisory - First Human Case of West Nile Virus for the 2020 Season - August 14, 2020**

Message ID: 8/14/2020 3:30:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required.**

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network 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.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 08142020 13:15

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN First Human West Nile Virus of 2020

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / EDs / ID Physicians

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies - please forward to healthcare providers

HEALTH ADVISORY | First Human Case of West Nile Virus for the 2020 Season | August 14, 2020

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- The first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) infection of the 2020 season has been reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
- The patient resides in Delta county, where there have been WNV positive mosquito pools. There have also been positive mosquito pools in Larimer and Weld counties this season.
- WNV should be considered in any person with an acute febrile or neurologic illness who has had recent exposure to mosquitoes, a blood transfusion or organ transplant. WNV should also be considered in any infant born to a mother infected with WNV during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.
- Commercial IgM serology testing for WNV is recommended for individuals presenting with an acute febrile or neurologic illness who has had recent exposure to mosquitoes, blood transfusion products, or organ transplant.

Background information

Mosquito collection for WNV testing began in June this year. So far 1,038 mosquito pools have been tested, and 12 pools have been positive. Positive mosquitoes have been identified so far in Delta, Larimer, and Weld counties. Not all counties in Colorado collect and test mosquitoes for WNV. Where there are mosquitoes present, Coloradans are at risk for mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV.

In the 2019 season there were 122 human cases of WNV virus. Fifty-two of these cases had neuro-invasive involvement, leading to eight deaths. In addition to the 122 people who experienced symptomatic illness, there were nine blood donors with infection who did not develop symptoms.

West Nile virus Infection

- The incubation period for WNV is usually 2-6 days but can range from 2-14 days.
- Most patients with WNV infection are asymptomatic but about 20% of infected patients will have an acute febrile illness that may include headache, myalgias, arthralgias, transient maculopapular rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Less commonly, patients may present with neuroinvasive disease such as aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis.
- The elderly and patients with underlying immunosuppressive conditions are at increased risk of severe complications of WNV infection.
- Complications of WNV infection can include acute flaccid paralysis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, radiculopathy, and prolonged neurologic deficits or malaise.

Recommendations / guidance

- WNV should be considered in any person with an acute febrile or neurologic illness who has had recent exposure to mosquitoes, a blood transfusion, or organ transplant. WNV should also be considered in any infant born to a mother infected with WNV during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.
- Commercial IgM serology testing for WNV is recommended for individuals presenting with an acute febrile or neurologic illness who have had recent exposure to mosquitoes, blood transfusion products, or organ transplant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact your Local Public Health Department, or the CDPHE Communicable Disease Branch (303-692-2700) if you have questions about WNV or suspect WNV in a patient.

For information on prevention and current statistics please visit:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/west-nile-virus>