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Navigation

- [Home](#)
- [Search Archives](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Recalls/Alerts](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Maps of Outbreaks](#)
- [Submit Info](#)
- [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [About ProMED-mail](#)
- [Who's Who](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Citing ProMED-mail](#)
- [Links](#)

**Archive Number** 20021121.5861

**Published Date** 21-NOV-2002

**Subject** PRO/AH/EDR> West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (31)

WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE 2002 - USA (31)

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A ProMED-mail post

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In these updates:

- [1] Equid, first case (Washington State)
- [2] MMWR-MDHSS report: (Missouri, 1 Jan to 9 Nov 2002)
- [3] MMWR-ArboNET report (USA, 14 Nov to 20 Nov 2002)

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[1]

Date: Fri 15 Nov 2002

From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

Source: Business Wire, Thu 14 Nov 2002 [edited]

First Equine Case of West Nile Virus Infection in Washington State

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The Washington State Department of Agriculture announced today that West Nile virus has been confirmed in a 14-year-old horse in Island County. The horse, which became ill early in October 2002, is recovering. It is the first horse known to have become infected with West Nile virus in Washington. "This is a reminder for horse owners to consider vaccinating their horses," said Dr. Robert Mead, state veterinarian. "Now may be a good time to act, because the vaccine requires 2 doses 3 to 6 weeks apart, and immunity will not be achieved until 5 weeks after the second vaccine. An annual booster should be given just prior to the start of the mosquito season in your area."

The Island County horse had received the 2-shot vaccine on 4 Sep and 2 Oct 2002. The animal became ill 10 days later, indicating that a mosquito bit it before immunity was established. The test results were reported by the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Pullman and confirmed yesterday by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

West Nile virus affects horses, mules, donkeys, and other equines much more often than other domestic animals. Most horses do not become ill and show no symptoms at all. Those that do become ill show signs such as loss of appetite, loss of coordination, confusion, head pressing, fever, stiffness, and muscle weakness. About one-third of horses that become ill die.

The best way to minimize the threat of West Nile virus is to control mosquito populations and prevent horses from being exposed to adult mosquitoes. Some protective measures include changing the water in livestock troughs, fountains, birdbaths and wading pools weekly during mosquito season. Owners may also consider draining or treating stagnant water, mowing grass and weeds, applying repellents, putting up screens to protect homes and stables from mosquitoes, and putting horses in stables at

night.

Repellents and insecticides should be used only according to directions. To report a potential case of West Nile virus in horses, call the State Veterinarian's Office at 360/902-1878, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Olympia at 360/753-9430.

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[2]

Date: Thu 21 Nov 2002

From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, West Nile Virus Activity, Fri 22 Nov 2002, 51(46);1049-1051 [edited]

<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5146a4.htm>>

West Nile Virus Activity; Missouri - Jan 1 to 9 Nov 2002

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During the period 1 Jan to 9 Nov 2002, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) identified 168 persons with laboratory evidence of West Nile virus (WNV) infection; 34 cases were confirmed by CDC on the basis of the plaque-reduction neutralization test, and 134 cases were classified as probable pending CDC confirmation. Of the 5 cases that were fatal, all had encephalitis.

The 168 patients had a median age of 53.2 years (range: 4 to 92 years); 91 patients (53 percent) were male. Median age of decedents was 75.6 years (range: 61 to 88 years). Dates of illness onset ranged from 11 Jul to 12 Oct 2002.

Of Missouri's 114 reporting local public health agencies (LPHAs), 109 (96 percent) have reported WNV-positive animal tests, representing nearly all geographic regions and human population centers in Missouri. Human WNV cases have occurred among persons from 32 (28 percent) of LPHA districts; 126 (75 percent) patients resided in metropolitan St. Louis districts. The metropolitan Kansas City area has recorded 8 cases; no human WNV cases have been reported from the Springfield area (Greene County). The elevated WNV incidence rate in the metropolitan St. Louis area, especially within St. Louis city limits (16.1 cases per 100 000 population), is under investigation.

Of 134 Missouri WNV cases for which case investigations are completed, 86 (64 percent) patients recalled being bitten by a mosquito 3 weeks before onset of illness. In addition, 86 (64 percent) patients reported not using repellent during that time. Patients spent an average of 4.4 hours outdoors per day for leisure and work. Morning (47 percent) was the time that patients most frequently reported being active outdoors for leisure and work. A total of 58 (43 percent) patients reported having standing water around their home during the 3 weeks preceding onset of illness. The top 4 reported sources of standing water were birdbaths, flowerpots, pet watering containers, and tires.

MDHSS provides frequent updates on human cases of WNV and activity by county for dead birds and infected horses on its website: <<http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/WestNileVirus/positives.pdf>>

Results on specimens submitted for laboratory testing are provided to patient providers, submitting laboratories, and local health departments. MDHSS issues press releases updating case numbers, reminding the public of personal protection measures, and advising elimination of sources of standing water around residences. MDHSS produced a statewide prevention campaign based on the slogan "Don't Let It Bug You," which included posters and brochures distributed to all 114 LPHAs, direct-mail appeals to St. Louis area clergy for increased community awareness of mosquito habitats, television and radio public service announcements, and a toll-free hotline for citizens' questions.

Mosquito-control program recommendations, developed by MDHSS are available at <<http://www.dhss.state.mo.us>>.

The decision to initiate a control program has been left to local municipalities.

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[3]

Date: Thu 21 Nov 2002

From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, West Nile Virus Activity, Fri 22 Nov 2002, 51(46);1049-1051 [edited]

<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5146a4.htm>>

West Nile Virus Activity; United States, Thu 14 Nov to Wed 20 Nov 2002

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This report summarizes West Nile virus (WNV) surveillance data reported to CDC through ArboNET and by states and other jurisdictions as of Wed 20 Nov 2002.

During the period Thu 14 Nov to Wed 20 Nov 2002, a total of 111 laboratory-positive human cases of WNV-associated illness were reported from Indiana (n=37), Illinois (n=23), Texas (n=17), Nebraska (n=9), Ohio (n=6), Georgia (n=5), Arkansas (n=4), Florida (n=4), Minnesota (n=3), Maryland (n=one), Massachusetts (n=one), and Tennessee (n=one).

During the same period, WNV infections were reported in 90 dead crows and 330 other dead birds. A total of 411 veterinary cases and 25 WNV-positive mosquito pools were reported.

During 2002, a total of 3698 human cases with laboratory evidence of recent WNV infection have been reported from Illinois (n=761), Michigan (n=504), Ohio (n=419), Louisiana (n=323), Indiana (n=284), Mississippi (n=182), Missouri (n=169), Texas (n=165), Nebraska (n=124), New York (n=78), Kentucky (n=67), Pennsylvania (n=59), Tennessee (n=55), Iowa (n=48), Alabama (n=46), Minnesota (n=45), Wisconsin (n=42), South Dakota (n=37), Georgia (n=35), the District of Columbia (n=34), Maryland (n=29), Virginia (n=27), Arkansas (n=25), Massachusetts (n=23), Florida (n=22), Connecticut (n=17), North Dakota (n=17), Oklahoma (n=16), Colorado (n=12), New Jersey (n=12), Kansas (n=9), West Virginia (n=3), North Carolina (n=2), California (n=one), Delaware (n=one), Montana (n=one), Rhode Island (n=one), South Carolina (n=one), Vermont (n=one), and Wyoming (n=one).

Among the 3287 patients for whom data were available, the median age was 55 years (range: 1.5 months to 99 years); 1755 (54 percent) were male, and the dates of illness onset ranged from 10 Jun to 4 Nov 2002. A total of 198 human deaths have been reported. The median age of decedents was 78 years (range: 24 to 99 years); 120 (61 percent) deaths were among men.

In addition, 7612 dead crows and 6060 other dead birds with WNV infection were reported from 42 states and the District of Columbia; 8723 WNV infections in mammals (8710 equines, 3 canines, and 10 other species) have been reported from 38 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming). During 2002, WNV seroconversions have been reported in 366 sentinel chicken flocks from Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and New York City; 4931 WNV-positive mosquito pools have been reported from 27 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland,

Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia), New York City, and the District of Columbia.

Additional information about WNV activity is available at  
<<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>> and  
<[http://www.cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west\\_nile/west\\_nile.html](http://www.cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west_nile/west_nile.html)>.

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[see also:  
West Nile virus - USA 2001: final report [20020613.4491](#)  
West Nile virus, predicted spread in 2002 - USA [20020109.3206](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (01) [20020506.4109](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (17) [20020823.5124](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (18): human [20020901.5212](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (19): non-human [20020901.5213](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (20) [20020907.5252](#)  
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (30) [20021114.5799](#)

2001  
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West Nile virus surveillance - USA 2000 final report [20010423.0792](#)  
West Nile virus surveillance - USA [20010129.0207](#)  
West Nile virus surveillance 2001 - USA (34) [20011130.2914](#)  
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\* <http://www.isid.org/netathon2002.shtml> \*  
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