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FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES



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WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE 2002 - USA (33)

A ProMED-mail post

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[There is no report from ArboNET in the current weekly issue of MMWR; a
sure sign that the outbreak is finally on the wane. - Mod.CP]

In these updates:

- [1] Human case, imported (Hawaii)
- [2] Human cases, now total 778 (Illinois)
- [3] Suspected transfusion-related case (Maryland)
- [4] Birds, species list (USGS NWHC, as of 25 Nov 2002)
- [5] Dog, suspected (Alabama)
- [6] APHIS-USDA report (USA, 1 Jan to 1 Dec 2002)
- [7] ERAP report (as of Mon 2 Dec 2002)

[1]

Date: Fri 29 Nov 2002

From: A-Lan Banks <A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk>

Source: The Honolulu Advertiser.com, Fri 29 Nov 2002 [edited]

<<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Nov/29/ln/ln30a.html>>

Hawaii: West Nile virus human case imported from Minnesota

A tourist from Minnesota came to Hawai'i carrying West Nile virus on 29 Sep 2002, but because humans are "dead-end" carriers who cannot transmit the disease, his case poses no threat, state Health Department officials said on Wed 27 Nov 2002. Positive results for the virus in a sample of the man's blood were reported to the department on Tue 26 Nov 2002, but the visitor has long since returned to Minnesota and has survived the infection.

The virus, which is spreading steadily across the mainland [United States], is transmitted to humans when a mosquito bites a bird infected with the virus, then bites a human. But the viremia, or level of the virus, is so relatively low in humans, they cannot transmit it to other people or back to mosquitoes, the Health Department said. The man was seen by a doctor while he was in Hawai'i, with flu-like symptoms he had begun experiencing before he left Minnesota, where the presence of the virus has been confirmed. The physician ordered blood drawn to try to identify the illness, and the results were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Because the case was "imported," Hawai'i is still considered to be free of the virus. The department has received dead wild birds turned in by the public and begun testing them for the virus, as part of a statewide preventive strategy to keep Hawai'i free of West Nile virus, state Health Director Bruce Anderson said. If birds do become infected, that will indicate the virus has arrived in the state in a manner that could lead to the spread of the disease from birds via mosquitoes to humans, he said. Tests this week have failed to detect the virus.

[2]

Date: Fri 29 Nov 2002

From: A-Lan Banks <A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk>

Source: WMAQ-TV (Illinois), NBC report, Fri 29 Nov 2002 [edited]

<<http://www.nbc5.com/health/1811539/detail.html>>

Illinois: state leads the nation in number of cases and deaths

Illinois public health officials have announced 4 more deaths caused by West Nile virus. That brings to 52 the number of people who have died from the mosquito-borne disease. Illinois leads the nation in cases and deaths.

Public health director Dr John Lumpkin says cold weather has ended the threat of the disease for this year. But more cases still might be reported as lab results are verified. Three of the elderly people who died were from Chicago and one [was] from northern Cook County. Illinois has had 778 cases of West Nile this year. Next is Michigan with 523 cases, including 41 deaths.

[3]

Date: Fri 29 Nov 2002

From: A-Lan Banks <A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk> and Pablo Nart
<p.nart@virgin.net>

Source: ABC News online, AP report, Fri 29 Nov 2002 [edited]
<http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20021127_1726.html>

Maryland: blood transfusion related West Nile virus infection death

A woman's death from the West Nile virus was probably related to a blood transfusion she received, health officials said on Wed 27 Nov 2002. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has listed the death as "probable transfusion associated," said John Hammond, a spokesman for the state health department. Of more than 3300 known West Nile virus infection cases this year nationwide, about 15 are believed to have been from blood transfusions, according to the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The 55 year old woman received a kidney transplant at Johns Hopkins Hospital on 6 Sep 2002; she was discharged on 14 Sep 2002 and readmitted 2 days later. She died on 1 Oct 2002. The patient had received blood from more than 30 donors, one of whom tested positive for the virus, the CDC and American Red Cross found. CDC was investigating to see if anyone else received the tainted blood.

West Nile virus is mostly spread by mosquitoes. Health officials believe it can also be transmitted through blood transfusions and organ transplants, but the risk is considered low. Commercial labs and the FDA are still developing a test to screen blood donations for the virus.

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A-Lan Banks

<A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk>

[4]

Date: Mon 2 Dec 2002

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promdemail.org>

Source: United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center,
as of 25 Nov 2002

A comprehensive list of the species of birds found positive for West Nile virus in North America during surveillance efforts up to 25 Nov 2002 is available at the following address:

<http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/research/west_nile/wnvaffected.html>

The list includes native and exotic avian species, free-ranging mammals, pets, and zoo animals.

[5]

Date: Wed 4 Dec 2002

From: A-Lan Banks <A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk>

Source: wpmi.com, Wed 4 Dec 2002 [edited]

<<http://www.wpmi.com/Global/story.asp?S=1036192&nav=3w5MCikS>>

Alabama: suspected fatal West Nile infection of dog

A dog in Baldwin County has died [as a result of West Nile virus infection]. It's believed to be the first in the state. The 2 year old long-haired dachshund bitch that died from West Nile virus infection was an inside dog, and only went out 3 times a day. She developed a low-grade fever, did not eat or drink for 5 days, and she began having seizures.

Dr Jerry Bedsole of the Loxley Animal Clinic, sent the dog to Auburn University, where researchers confirmed [the diagnosis]. "After several tests, even one that turned up negative," Dr Bedsole says, "another test came back positive, and we're convinced it was West Nile virus."

Dr Bedsole says that dog owners should not panic, [although] a vaccine protecting dogs from West Nile virus is not available. It may not be needed, however, because dogs [tend to be] resistant. The risk of West Nile virus has passed its peak, thanks to cooler weather.

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A-Lan Banks

<A-Lan.Banks@derwent.co.uk>

[6]

Date: Wed 4 Dec 2002 2002

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service: update on the current status of West Nile virus, as of Sun 1 Dec 2002 [edited]

<<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/wnv/wnvstats.html>>

Equine cases of West Nile virus illness in 2002: 1 Jan to 1 Dec 2002

The total number of equine cases of illness caused by West Nile virus (WNV) confirmed at the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) or reported by state officials so far this year is 14 358. That is an increase of 313 cases from 11 days ago.

The cases are from 40 states: Alabama (88), Arkansas (146), Colorado (378), Connecticut (3), Delaware (8), Florida (415), Georgia (145), Idaho (1), Illinois (1,084), Indiana (688), Iowa (1,039), Kansas (675), Kentucky (512), Louisiana (362), Maryland (17), Massachusetts (2), Michigan (342), Minnesota (969), Mississippi (297), Missouri (914), Montana (134), Nebraska (1099), New Jersey (47), New Mexico (61), New York (36), North Carolina (22), North Dakota (569), Ohio (647), Oklahoma (954), Pennsylvania (97), South Carolina (10), South Dakota (672), Tennessee (141), Texas (1,478), Vermont (5), Virginia (45), Washington (1), West Virginia (3), Wisconsin (156), and Wyoming (96).

[7]

Date: Thu 5 Dec 2002

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

Source: Environmental Risk Analysis Program, Cornell University - Center for the Environment, West Nile Virus News, Mon 2 Dec 2002 [edited]

West Nile virus latest news - as of Mon 2 Dec 2002

Range of West Nile virus (WNV) in North America:

In 2002 WNV has been detected in 44 states across the US and 5 provinces in Canada, from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia. In the US the only states where it has not been detected are Alaska, Arizona (several cases imported from elsewhere), Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon (it has been found in a human case contracted elsewhere and in a horse in a border county in Idaho), and Utah. In many states WNV has been detected in all, or nearly all, counties, including several on the Mexican border.

Human cases in US:

As of Fri 29 Nov 2002, CDC reports 3737 human cases (201 fatalities) from 39 states and Washington DC. Illinois (776), Michigan (523), and Ohio (419) have the highest case loads. During the period 26 to 29 Nov 2002 new cases were reported from 7 states (Michigan,19; Illinois,15; Wisconsin, 3; 1 case each in Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, and New York. The rate of new cases peaked in September and has now declined to pre-August levels. The median age of the 3378 patients for whom data are available is 55 years (range 1.5 months to 99 years); 1802 (54 per cent) are male; dates of illness onset ranged from 10 Jun to 4 Nov 2002. Median age of 201 decedents = 78 (range 24 to 99); 60 per cent deaths male.

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[see also:

West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (32)	20021129.5918
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (31)	20021121.5861
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (30)	20021114.5799
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (20)	20020907.5252
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (19): non-human	20020901.5213
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (18): human	20020901.5212
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (17)	20020823.5124
West Nile virus - USA 2001: final report	20020613.4491
West Nile virus update 2002 - USA (01)	20020506.4109
West Nile virus, predicted spread in 2002 - USA	20020109.3206

2001

West Nile virus surveillance 2001 - USA (34) [20011130.2914](#)
West Nile virus surveillance - USA 2000 final report [20010423.0792](#)
West Nile virus surveillance - USA [20010129.0207](#)]

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*   http://www.isid.org/netathon2002.shtml *  
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