

PROVIDER Bulletin



August 22, 2012

This Provider Bulletin applies to the lines of business and provider types checked below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Healthcare Partners (Medicare)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Care Physicians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specialists
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHF Healthcare Centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHF Pharmacies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHF HR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHF Public Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managed Care/ RNCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM Nurses

Fight the Bite!

As of August 21, 2012, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) reported 1118 human cases of West Nile Virus, resulting in 41 deaths. Of reported cases, 80% are concentrated in six states: Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and California. This outbreak prompted some local governments to conduct aerial spraying of insecticides to help control and reduce the vector population.

The CDC warns that people with a compromised immune system are at a higher risk to contract a severe form of the illness, such as the very young and over the age of 50, those with diseases such as HIV and people who are taking medicines that weaken the immune system. Most people infected with the West Nile Virus (70-80%) never know they have it. About 20-30% develops West Nile fever with headaches, fever, joint pains, vomiting or diarrhea and rash. Less than 1 percent of those infected with the virus develop West Nile neuroinvasive disease involving inflammation of the brain, spinal cord or the tissue surrounding the brain. About 10 percent of those will die. These individuals also face a greater risk of complications from the neurotoxins found in aerial insecticides. There is no known cure for the virus. However, there are preventative measures.

The best way to avoid exposure to West Nile virus is to practice the Five Ds:

- **D**EET: use insect repellents that contain DEET
- **D**ress: wear long, loose and light-colored clothing or stay indoors
- **D**usk-to-Dawn: take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing
- **D**rain: any standing water should be drained. Mosquitoes typically breed in standing water pools, empty flower pots, buckets and barrels. Frequently change the water in pet dishes or bird baths
- **D**eter: keep mosquitoes from entering the house by using screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of the home.

For more information, visit:

- CDC: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm
- California West Nile Virus Website: <http://westnile.ca.gov/>
- District of Columbia Department of Health: http://doh.dc.gov/doh/cwp/view,a.1370,q.574234,dohnav_gid,1787,dohnav,%7C33139%7C.asp
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/WestNileVirus.html>
- Georgia Department of Public Health: <http://health.state.ga.us/epi/vbd/mosquito.asp>

This Provider Bulletin is not intended to replace or conflict with any requirements outlined in your signed agreement with AHF, Positive Healthcare and/or Positive Healthcare Partners. If you have any questions or suggestions contact the Provider Relations Department at (888) 726-5411 or email to laura.reyes@aidshhealth.org.

PROVIDER Bulletin



-
- Ohio Department of Health:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/features/odhfeatures/Mosquitoes/West%20Nile%20Virus%20Updates.aspx>
 - Texas Department of State Health Services : <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/>

This Provider Bulletin is not intended to replace or conflict with any requirements outlined in your signed agreement with AHF, Positive Healthcare and/or Positive Healthcare Partners. If you have any questions or suggestions contact the Provider Relations Department at (888) 726-5411 or email to laura.reyes@aidhealth.org.