



## Health Advisory: Vectorborne Disease Risk Season is Here

Minnesota Department of Health Thu May 31 13:00 CDT 2018

### Action Steps:

**Local and tribal health departments:** Please forward to hospitals, emergency departments, urgent care centers, clinics, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals and clinics:** Please distribute to all health care providers in these facilities.

### Health care providers:

- Now that vectorborne disease season has begun, be on the lookout for possible arboviral disease cases.
- Submit serum and spinal fluid specimens from these cases to MDH for testing that includes a panel of endemic arboviruses.
- Report suspect cases of vectorborne disease to MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414.

### Background

Despite the late spring, warm temperatures now are bringing Minnesotans outdoors, and putting them at risk for exposures to ticks and mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. In 2017, Minnesota saw near record numbers of infections due to some emerging arboviral pathogens, like Powassan virus (transmitted by the blacklegged tick or deer tick) and Jamestown Canyon virus (transmitted by various species of mosquitoes). Both of these viruses are rare, but can be serious, especially in older patients, or those with compromised immune systems. Health care providers should be suspicious of arboviral disease throughout the warmer months in patients presenting with fever, headaches, and muscle aches after spending time outdoors, particularly if symptoms progress to encephalitis, meningitis, or other neurologic disease.

MDH is working hard to learn more about how these diseases affect Minnesotans, and encourages providers to submit serum and spinal fluid specimens to the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory for arbovirus testing, especially in patients presenting with neurologic symptoms after outdoor exposures. Testing for more common bacterial and parasitic tickborne diseases (i.e., the agents of Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis) is not available at MDH and should be ordered through commercial laboratories.

### Additional Information

1. [Vectorborne Diseases](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/vectorborne/index.html)  
(<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/vectorborne/index.html>)
2. [Infectious Disease Reporting](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/reportable/index.html)  
(<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/reportable/index.html>)

A copy of this HAN is available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/han/>

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.