



CONTRA COSTA HEALTH

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Provider Health Advisory

September 5, 2024

Update on Travel Associated Vector Borne Disease: Dengue and Oropouche Virus

Contra Costa Public Health is issuing this health advisory so providers are aware of the global rise in cases from two travel-related vector borne infections – Dengue and Oropouche Virus. Although the risk of local transmission for both viruses is still low, a patient who presents with fever and other systemic symptoms should always be asked about recent travel to determine need for diagnostic testing and appropriate management. These viruses co-circulate in some endemic areas and present similarly. Knowing travel history can help determine when to suspect these infections, order appropriate tests, and, with prompt reporting of suspect cases, guide public health interventions to prevent further spread.

Key Points:

- Ask about travel history in patients presenting with fever
- Order appropriate diagnostics if you suspect these infections
- Dengue infection is still more common than Oropouche virus and if considering the latter, test for both infections
- Consider [West Nile Virus](#) (WNV) in patients without recent foreign travel in the past 14 days as the season for WNV infection continues into early fall
- Report suspected and/or confirmed dengue, Oropouche, and West Nile cases to the Contra Costa Communicable Disease Program
- Counsel patients about [insect bite prevention](#) when traveling to endemic areas

Dengue Virus

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2024, [countries in the Americas](#) reported a record-breaking number of dengue cases, exceeding the highest number ever recorded in a single year. In 2024, to date, countries in the Americas reported more than 11 million dengue cases, more than twice as many as in all of 2023 (4.6 million cases). In the United States, Puerto Rico has declared a public health emergency (1,498 cases) and a higher-than-expected number of dengue cases have been identified among U.S. travelers in 2024. In the setting of increased global and domestic incidence of dengue, healthcare providers should take steps including:

1. Have increased suspicion of dengue among people with fever who have been in [areas](#) with frequent or continuous dengue transmission within 14 days before illness onset,
2. Order appropriate diagnostic tests for acute dengue infection: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction [RT-PCR] and IgM antibody tests, or non-structural protein 1 [NS1] antigen tests and IgM antibody tests,
3. Ensure timely reporting of dengue cases to public health authorities, and
4. Promote mosquito bite prevention measures among people visiting areas with frequent or continuous dengue transmission.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more detailed information.

Oropouche Virus

CDC recently reported that beginning in late 2023, Oropouche virus was identified as the cause of large outbreaks in Amazon regions with known endemic transmission and in new areas in South America and the Caribbean. The virus is spread to humans by infected biting midges and some mosquito species. Although infection typically causes a self-limited febrile illness, reports of two deaths in patients with Oropouche virus infection and vertical transmission associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes have raised concerns about the threat of this virus to human health. As of August 16, 2024, a total of 21 Oropouche virus disease cases were identified among U.S. travelers returning from Cuba. Most patients initially experienced fever, myalgia, and headache, often with other symptoms including arthralgia, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, and rash. At least three patients had recurrent symptoms after the initial illness, a common characteristic of Oropouche virus disease.

1. Clinicians should be aware of the occurrence of Oropouche virus disease in U.S. travelers and request testing for suspected cases.
2. Travelers should practice mosquito and midge bite prevention when visiting areas with Oropouche transmission and for three weeks after returning to the US
3. Pregnant persons should consider deferring travel to areas experiencing outbreaks of Oropouche virus disease.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more detailed information.

To report a suspected case of dengue or Oropouche infection and/or to get assistance with testing, please call the Communicable Disease Program at 925-313-6740 or click [here for details on reporting](#).