

Animal Disease Surveillance Report

January 2012

CDC Zoonotic Disease Update From Webinar 1/4/2012

On January 4th, the CDC presented a webinar which described information on **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) Cases in Eastern US, 2011**

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a rare but deadly viral infection. It is spread by wild mice and rats. They shed the virus in their urine, droppings and saliva. Tiny droplets with the virus can enter the air. People can get the disease if they breathe infected air or come into contact with rodents or their urine or droppings. Hantavirus has not been shown to infect other kinds of animals, such as dogs, cats, or farm animals. The common house mouse does not carry HPS

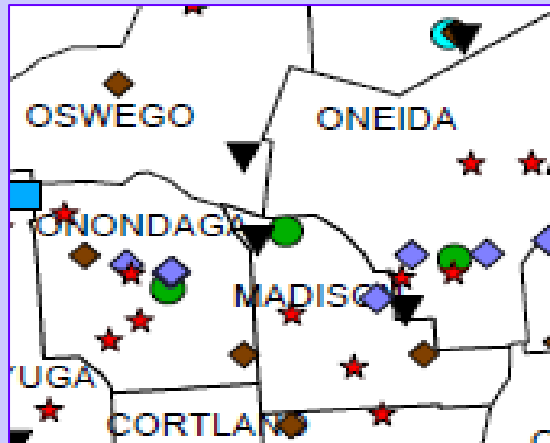
Hantavirus cases are mostly seen in the mid-and Psouthwest, with New Mexico leading with 88 cases through October 19, 2011. The total number of HPS cases in the United States is 580 in 34 states. New York State had only 4 exposures. Madison County had no exposures of HPS.

The webinar panel reviewed a case study of a Long Island man who was initially diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease. After developing acute respiratory symptoms days later, however, a revised diagnosis of HPS was made. The man had recently cleaned his basement of wild rodent droppings. .

Because HPS can present with fever, chills, muscle and joint pain as in Lyme disease , the medical community might avoid a misdiagnosis if they would question patients to ascertain whether they have been near wild rodents or their hiding places to rule out HPS.



Laboratory Confirmed Rabies Data 1/1/2011-12/31/2011 in Central New York Counties



Positive specimens are positioned on the map using coordinates; however, for visibility purposes spacing was applied.

See www.wadsworth.org/rabies/monthly/Dec11nmb.pdf

Veterinarian Survey Results for Month of December, 2011

Each month, a survey is conducted with local veterinarians to ascertain any trends in communicable zoonoses levels at their clinics. December, 2011 data from the Veterinarian monthly survey shows :

- A fight between a fox and a dog in the Town of Hamilton ended with the fox being killed by the dog. The fox tested positive for rabies virus. The dog was euthanized.
- Lyme disease in dogs is continuing to decline slightly.
- Very few cases of Giardia were seen in December.
- Several roundworm and hookworm cases were seen, representing a slight rise in two veterinarians' offices.

Lives Saved By Catching the Bats!

Untreated rabies is deadly to humans. The number of people treated for rabies in NY has increased since 1993, with part of the rise linked to a change in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

Previous to 1993, the CDC recommended treatment for anyone bitten, scratched, or exposed to bat saliva. In 1999 the agency began recommending that rabies treatments, known as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), be given for those exposed to bats even if there is no apparent bite or physical contact such as finding a bat in a bedroom.

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) developed local health department and public education programs to reduce bat encounters, increase testing of bats involved in non-contact encounters, and improve reporting of them.

In a recent editorial¹ NYSDOH reported a rise in the number of people reporting bat exposures. At the same time, the number of non-contact encounter cases with bats also rose. By 2002, the noncontact cases made up 80% of the people treated for bat-related rabies.

The NYSDOH estimates that the capture and testing of 7729 rabies-negative bats during the study period allowed approximately 14,000 people avoid treatment, with an estimated savings of \$15.8 million.

¹Eidson M, Hagiwara Y, Rudd RJ, McNutt L-A. Bat rabies and human postexposure prophylaxis, New York, USA [letter]. Emerg Infect Dis [serial on the Internet]. 2011 Dec [date cited]. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1712.102024>