



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

SEP 3 2004

Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

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Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) position statement 04-ID-01 entitled "Revision of the National Surveillance Case Definition of Diseases Caused by Neurotropic Domestic Arboviruses, Including the Addition to the NNDSS of Non-Neuroinvasive Illnesses Caused by these Viruses." This CSTE position statement proposes the following three significant changes to the current (2001) version of the national surveillance case definition of domestic arboviral encephalitis/meningitis:

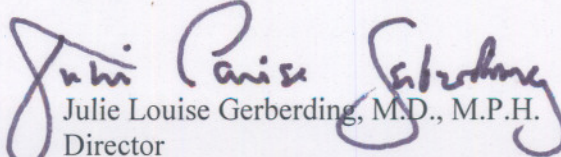
- (1) Adding non-neuroinvasive clinical syndromes (*e.g.*, West Nile fever and other domestic arboviral fevers) to the Nationally Notifiable Diseases List (NNDL).
- (2) Adding neurologic syndromes (*e.g.*, West Nile virus poliomyelitis syndrome) other than encephalitis or meningitis to the NNDL.
- (3) Adding more specific clinical criteria to the case definition.

The cumulative effect of this new position statement will make *all* human illnesses due to diseases caused by neurotropic domestic arboviruses (neurologic and non-neurologic) reportable. In addition, adding more specific clinical criteria to the case definition should help public health practitioners to classify cases more accurately.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorses these changes and has modified our surveillance and reporting system, ArboNet, to reflect these changes. CDC encourages all states to begin surveillance for these arboviral diseases with cases whose illness onset is in calendar year 2004, and to report these cases to CDC through ArboNet. Beginning in 2005, the diseases added to the Nationally Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System will be reflected in the Morbidity and Mortality Report tables of nationally notifiable diseases.

I hope this information is helpful and again appreciate your writing.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director