

## **European Commission – Update on West Nile Virus Occurrence in Europe**

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below some updates regarding the occurrences of West Nile Virus in Italy (3 confirmed cases), Hungary (14 confirmed cases + 5 under review) and Romania (2 confirmed cases) during the last months.

### **ITALY:**

#### **Update received from the Italian Competent Authority on Friday 7 November**

A THIRD human case of neuroinvasive WND was confirmed on 6th November in a patient living in a small town in the province of Rovigo, at the border with the province of Ferrara.

Precautionary measures for blood donations are the same as already communicated, that is:

- 1) WNV NAT test implemented on all donations from donors resident in the interested areas;
- 2) Deferral for 28 days of donors having been for at least one night in the same areas;
- 3) Intensive active animal surveillance is still in place and is expected to last until 31st December (a daily epidemiological bulletin is issued - in Italian - in the web site of the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale* of Teramo - [www.izs.it](http://www.izs.it)- National Reference Centre for animal exotic diseases);
- 4) Active human surveillance on all neuroinvasive syndromes possibly to be associated with WND is in place in the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Lombardy, with the indication to test all cases for WNV (serology and NAT); the national reference centre for Arboviruses at the *Istituto Superiore di Sanità* is supporting diagnostic confirmation tests.

### **HUNGARY**

#### **Analysis of the 14 WNV cases that occurred in Hungary in August-September 2008**

On 6 November 2008, Eurosurveillance published a detailed analysis of the 14 cases of WNV confirmed in Hungary for the period August-September 2008. The report is available online at <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19030>. A pdf version of the report is attached to this message.

### **ROMANIA**

#### **Update received from the Romanian Competent Authority this week**

With regards to the 2 cases of WNV infection identified during the last 3 months in Braila and Bucharest, the 2 closest blood establishments - Braila and Bucharest - have been informed and asked by the National Institute of Transfusion Haematology to defer the potential donors coming from the 2 areas involved. In this respect, supplementary questions have been introduced in the donors' questionnaires of the 2 Blood Establishments to identify any other person who might have been exposed to mosquito bites. No other cases have been reported so far.

For your information, attached are the alert and risk assessment circulated by Romania in the EWRS on 10 October.

## **ECDC's threat assessment regarding WNV cases in Italy, Hungary and Romania**

The European Center for Communicable Diseases Control and Prevention (ECDC) prepared a document providing an assessment following the current situation of West Nile Virus in Italy, Hungary and Romania (attached). The document comprises background information on WNV, description of the occurrences, preventive/curative measures undertaken by the concerned countries (including on human substances collection) and recommendations. Their assessment has been circulated to the national authorities responsible for public health measures following events due to communicable diseases of EU relevance under the current EU legislation. This document may be updated in case of need and/or if requested by the national authorities concerned.

Should you have valuable information or any request, please do not hesitate to contact us,

With kind regards,

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DG SANCO C6 - Health Measures