

CDC: Health Advisory: Risk of Severe Arboviral Disease in Patients Receiving B Cell-Depleting or Modulating Medications

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed., Aug. 12, 14:30 CDT 2026

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to physicians, infection preventionists, primary care clinicians, and infectious disease doctors.

Health care providers:

- Read the CDC: Risk of Severe Arboviral Disease in Patients Receiving B Cell-Depleting or Modulating Medications (<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00532.html>) for situational awareness.
- When prescribing any immunosuppressive medications or caring for patients taking any immunosuppressive medication, particularly B cell-depleting mAbs, educate patients about the risk of severe arboviral disease and advise them to take measures to prevent mosquito and tick bites.
- Take a thorough exposure and travel history for patients presenting with a febrile or neurologic illness.
- Follow newly revised recommendations when an arboviral infection is suspected in a patient receiving B cell-depleting mAbs, and order molecular testing (i.e., RT-PCR or mNGS).

Situation summary

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to share information and notify clinicians, public health authorities, and the public about the risk of severe arboviral neuroinvasive disease among patients who are receiving B cell-depleting or B cell-modulating medications, particularly anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). Patients and their providers should be aware of this risk to help patients protect themselves against the bites of mosquitoes and ticks, as these patients may be at increased risk for arboviral disease.

For more information

- [Mosquitoborne Diseases \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mosquitoborne/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mosquitoborne/index.html)
 - [Preventing Mosquitoborne Disease \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mosquitoborne/prevention.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/mosquitoborne/prevention.html)
- [Tickborne Diseases \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/index.html)
 - [Preventing Tickborne Disease \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/prevention.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/prevention.html)

- [CDC: Clinical Guidance for Vector-Borne Viral Diseases in People Who Are Immunocompromised \(https://www.cdc.gov/vector-borne-diseases/hcp/clinical-guidance-immunocompromised/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vector-borne-diseases/hcp/clinical-guidance-immunocompromised/index.html)
 - [CDC: Diagnostic Testing Algorithm for Suspected West Nile Virus Disease \(https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/hcp/diagnosis-testing/diagnostic-testing-algorithm.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/hcp/diagnosis-testing/diagnostic-testing-algorithm.html)
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A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](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