

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

2025

SCCHD-04

ISSUE DATE: 04-07-25

TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, Walk-in Clinics, Pediatricians, Long Term Care Facilities, Neurologists, ENT's, OB/GYN, and Pulmonology.

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Ongoing Risk of Dengue Infection

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) wants to remind healthcare providers of the increased dengue transmission across the Americas. Dengue activity remains high in some parts of the country; including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. Dengue has also been reported in multiple states. Spring and summer travel coincide with the peak season for dengue in many countries, which can lead to increased travel-associated and locally acquired cases.

Clinical Presentation:

Dengue is a potentially fatal acute febrile illness caused by infection with any of four dengue viruses (DENV-1, -2, -3, and -4). Approximately 1 in 4 people infected with dengue virus will get sick. Clinicians should consider dengue in patients who present with fever and have recent travel to areas with risk within 14 days of symptom onset. Other common symptoms include:

- Severe headache
- Eye pain (typically behind the eyes)
- Muscle, joint, or bone pain
- Rash or unusual bleeding (nose or gums bleed, small red spots under the skin, or unusual bruising)
- 1 in 20 people who get sick with dengue will develop severe dengue, which may present as dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Laboratory Confirmation:

- Patients with suspected DENV infection should be tested with
RT-PCR (i.e., a nucleic acid amplification test or NAAT) or NS1 antigen test
AND
an IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) antibody test.
- These tests are available from commercial and state laboratories.

Recommendations:

- Report **suspect** cases to your local health department at (810)-987-5300
- Advise patients who are traveling to take steps to prevent mosquito bites during travel and for 3 weeks after returning from locations of continuous dengue transmission.
- If dengue is suspected, do not delay treatment while waiting for laboratory results
- If the patient tests negative for Dengue, consider testing for other infectious diseases that might be occurring where the patient was likely exposed (Zika, Chikungunya, and Oropouche can all have similar clinical symptoms).
- For additional information, including testing guidance and locations with dengue transmission, please visit www.cdc.gov/dengue.