

HEALTH ALERT

Increased risk of dengue virus (DENV) infections in the United States in 2024

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify healthcare providers, public health authorities and the public of an increased risk of dengue virus (DENV) infections in the United States in 2024. Full alert here: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00511.asp>

Global incidence of dengue in 2024 has been the highest on record for this calendar year; many countries are reporting higher-than-usual [dengue case numbers](#). In 2024, [countries in the Americas](#) have reported a record-breaking number of dengue cases, exceeding the highest number ever recorded in a single year. From January 1 – June 24, 2024, countries in the Americas reported more than 9.7 million dengue cases, twice as many as in all of 2023 (4.6 million cases). In the United States, Puerto Rico has declared a public health emergency (1,498 cases) and a higher-than-expected number of dengue cases have been identified among U.S. travelers (745 cases) from January 1 – June 24, 2024.

In the setting of increased global and domestic incidence of dengue, healthcare providers should take steps including:

1. Have increased suspicion of dengue among people with fever who have been in areas with frequent or continuous dengue transmission¹ within 14 days before illness onset,
2. Order appropriate² diagnostic tests for acute DENV infection:
 1. reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction [RT-PCR] and IgM antibody tests,
 2. or non-structural protein 1 [NS1] antigen tests and IgM antibody tests,
3. Ensure timely reporting of suspected and confirmed dengue cases to **Humboldt County Public Health Communicable Disease 707-268-2182, Fax 707-445-7346,** and
4. Promote mosquito bite prevention measures among people living in or visiting areas .

¹Areas with frequent or continuous dengue transmission: Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. In the rest of the United States, local transmission of DENV has been limited, with sporadic cases or small outbreaks in Florida, Hawaii, and Texas. However, confirmed local DENV transmission has also been reported by Arizona and California over the past two years.

²Testing note- IgG detection by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in a single serum sample should not be used to diagnose a patient with acute dengue because it does not distinguish between current and previous DENV infection.



Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

- Maintain a high suspicion for dengue among patients with fever and recent travel (within 14 days before illness onset) to [areas with frequent or continuous dengue transmission](https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/areas-with-risk/). <https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/areas-with-risk/>
- Consider locally acquired dengue among patients who have signs and symptoms highly compatible with dengue (e.g., fever, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, aches, pains, rash) in [areas with competent mosquito vectors](https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/about-mosquitoes-in-the-united-states.html). <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/about-mosquitoes-in-the-united-states.html>
- Order appropriate FDA-approved dengue [tests](https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html) (RT-PCR and IgM antibody tests, or NS1 and IgM antibody tests), and do not delay treatment waiting for test results to confirm dengue. <https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/hcp/diagnosis-testing/index.html>
- Know the warning signs for progression to severe dengue, which include abdominal pain or tenderness, persistent vomiting, clinical fluid accumulation, mucosal bleeding, lethargy or restlessness, and liver enlargement.
- For people with suspected dengue who do not have warning signs and are not part of a population at high risk for severe dengue, consider outpatient management with close follow-up.
- Teach patients about the warning signs that may appear as their fever starts to decline and instruct them to seek care urgently if they experience any warning signs.
- Recognize the critical phase of dengue. The critical phase begins when fever starts to decline and lasts for 24–48 hours. During this phase, some patients require close monitoring and may deteriorate within hours without appropriate intravenous (IV) fluid management.
- Hospitalize patients with severe dengue or any warning sign of progression to severe dengue and follow [CDC/WHO protocols for IV fluid management](#).
- Ensure timely reporting of suspected and confirmed dengue cases to **Humboldt County Public Health Communicable Disease 707-268-2182, Fax 707-445-7346**

For more information, *click on the hyperlinks below or search the terms below*

- [Clinical Testing Guidance for Dengue | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Guidelines for Classifying Dengue | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Clinical Features of Dengue | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Dengue Case Management Pocket Guide | CDC](#)
- [Dengue During Pregnancy | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Dengue Vaccine | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Dengvaxia: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Dengue | CDC Yellow Book 2024](#)
- [Dengue Clinical Management Course | Dengue | CDC](#)
- [Webinar: What Clinicians Need to Know about Dengue in the United States | CDC](#)
- [Submitting Specimens for Dengue Virus Tests | Vector-Borne Diseases | CDC](#)

