



**Public Health Advisory**  
**8/22/2024**

**Increased Oropuche Virus Activity in the Americas and Caribbean - Elevated Risk to Travelers**

**SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY**

**Situation:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Advisory on 8/16/24](#) in response to a surge in Oropuche virus disease cases across the Americas. This increase is particularly notable in endemic areas within the Amazon and newly affected regions in South America and the Caribbean.

- **Endemic Activity:** Between January 1 and August 1, 2024, more than 8,000 cases of Oropuche virus disease were reported, including two deaths. Additionally, five cases of vertical transmission (mother-to-child) have been associated with congenital abnormalities or fetal death.
- **U.S. Activity:** In 2024, 11 cases of Oropuche virus have been reported in the U.S., all linked to travel to Cuba and Brazil. No local transmissions have been reported within the U.S.
- **Transmission:** Oropuche virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected biting midges (*Culicoides paraensis*). Infected individuals can contribute to the transmission cycle, serving as amplifying hosts for these midges and potentially for certain mosquitoes (*Culex quinquefasciatus*), which can then spread the virus to others.

**Recommendations for Providers:**

✓ **Consider:**

- Oropuche virus in patients reporting travel to the Amazon basin, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Cuba within 2 weeks from initial symptoms of acute high fever (38-40°C), chills, headache, myalgia, and arthralgias; AND no respiratory symptoms and tested negative for other possible conditions including dengue.
- Clinical symptoms of Oropuche virus are similar to those of dengue, Zika, and chikungunya virus.
- While most cases resolve within a week, up to 70% of patients may experience a recurrence of symptoms days to weeks later.

✓ **Test:**

- Submit serum or CSF specimens for testing at CDC, with coordination from the SNHD.

✓ **Treat:**

- Provide patients with supportive care, using acetaminophen as the first-line of treatment to reduce fever and pain, over aspirin and NSAIDS, to reduce the risk of hemorrhage.

✓ **Educate:**

- Advise pregnant persons about the potential risks to their fetuses when considering travel to areas where Oropuche virus is circulating, especially where a [Level 2 travel health notice is in effect](#).
- Educate all travelers to Oropuche virus-affected areas on the importance of preventing insect bites and how to reduce the spread of the virus, including avoiding the potential importation of the virus into unaffected regions if they become infected.

✓ **Report:**

- Report any suspected cases of Oropuche virus to SNHD's Disease Surveillance and Control via fax at 702-759-1414 or Phone at (702) 759-1300.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH  
District Health Officer  
Southern Nevada Health District

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

280 South Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107 • Phone (702) 759-1000 • [www.snhd.info](http://www.snhd.info)

## Reference Links

The complete URLs for the shortened links are listed below to copy and paste into your browser.

- CDC Health Advisory issued on 8/16/2024: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00515.asp>
- Travel Health Notices: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>