



**Public Health Update
03/19/2025**

Ongoing Risk of Dengue Virus Infections and Updated Testing Recommendations in the United States

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [health update](#) on 3/18/2025 due to the ongoing risk of Dengue Virus Infections and Updated Testing Recommendations in the United States.

- **Global Surge:** More than 760,000 dengue cases have been reported in the Americas in 2025, representing a 15% increase compared to the previous 5-year average.
- **US Impact:** Dengue virus transmission remains high in the Americas region, including in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Spring and summer travel coincide with the peak season for dengue in many countries, increasing the risk of both travel-associated and locally acquired cases in the United States.
- **Local Impact:** Clark County, NV has had 5 travel-associated dengue cases in 2024 and 1 in 2025, but no locally acquired cases.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

- ✓ **Consider:** Have a **high index of suspicion for dengue** when seeing patients with:
 - Fever, headaches, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, rash or petechiae AND **a history of travel** to an [area with frequent DENV outbreaks](#) 14 days before illness onset.
- ✓ **Monitor:** Watch for **warning signs for progression to severe dengue in the critical phase when patients start to defervesce**. Warning signs and symptoms include:
 - Abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, fluid accumulation, mucosal bleeding, lethargy or restlessness, and liver enlargement.
- ✓ **Test:** Order diagnostic tests for acute DENV infection:
 - Patients with suspected DENV infection **should be tested with RT-PCR (i.e., a nucleic acid amplification test [NAAT]) or an NS1 antigen test, as well as with an IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) antibody test.**
 - When selecting an RT-PCR assay, **use the CDC DENV-1-4 Real Time RT-PCR Assay when dengue is the most likely diagnosis.**

Test	Specimen	ARUP	CPL	LabCorp	Quest
Dengue Ab, IgM	Serum	0093098			37580
Dengue Ab, IgM + IgG		0093096	5334		93256
NS1 Antigen					92942
Dengue 1-4 ENA Qualitative Real Time PCR		2013294			14013

- Use the Triplex Real Time RT-PCR assay (approved under an Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration), when Zika is the most likely diagnosis.
- For samples testing negative for dengue, consider RT-PCR testing for Oropouche virus (OROV) based on recent OROV circulation in locations visited.
- ✓ **Treat:** Provide supportive care, as there are no antiviral medications for dengue.



- ✓ **Educate:**
 - Inform patients planning to travel to high-risk areas about [mosquito bite prevention](#).
 - Highlight that summer travel overlaps with increased dengue activity in many countries.
 - Note while a vaccine exists for children aged 9-16 years with prior DENV infection, production has been discontinued, and doses expire in 2026.
- ✓ **Report:** Dengue is a nationally notifiable disease. Report cases timely to SNHD's Disease Surveillance and Control via Fax 702-759-1414 or Phone 702-759-1300.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cassius Lockett'.

Cassius Lockett, PhD
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

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