



HAZARD ALERT



Japanese Encephalitis

Issue

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a serious viral disease. Humans become infected when bitten by a mosquito that has previously bitten a pig or wild waterbird infected with the virus. The virus cannot be transmitted from human to human, or by eating meat from an infected animal.

In most cases, people with JE are asymptomatic, however those with severe infection may experience: neck stiffness, coma, and more rarely, permanent neurological complications or death.

Illness usually begins with symptoms such as:

- sudden onset of fever
- headache
- vomiting.

If you believe you may be infected with JE, seek urgent medical assistance.

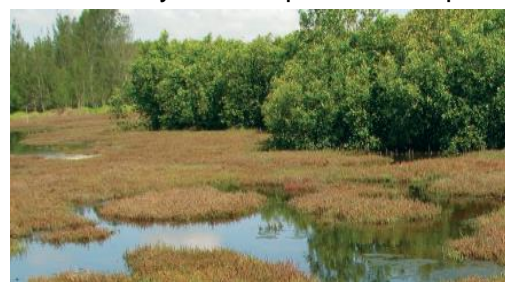
As of 16th May 2022, NSW Health have identified confirmed cases of JE in the following local government areas: **Balranald; Berrigan; Dubbo, Federation; Goulburn Mulwaree; Griffith; Temora; Wentworth; Lockhart; and Carrathool.**

Workers in these areas and other areas where workers are exposed to mosquitoes (particularly while working outdoors at high risk periods between dusk and dawn when mosquitos are most active) are at greater risk of infection.



Managing the risks of Japanese Encephalitis

- Maintain awareness of [health alerts](#) and announcements in your local community
- Maintain awareness of higher risk locations within your response area (such as piggeries)
- Inspect areas around your workplace and remove any items/debris that may collect standing water (which may become a breeding area for mosquitoes)
- Workers should check the integrity of insect screens on windows and doors at your workplace and report to your supervisor if repairs or maintenance are required
- If insect screens are not available, try to keep windows and doors closed to prevent mosquitos entering the workplace
- Ensure your workplace has an adequate supply of an approved and effective insect repellent for use, especially when working outdoors at dawn or dusk when mosquitos are most active
- Remind workers to wear long sleeve shirts, pants & enclosed footwear to minimise risk of insect bites
- Workers who assess their workplace as high risk (based on local public health alerts or proximity to commercial piggeries) should hold discussions with Zone Management. NSW Health provides evidence based information on [Japanese Encephalitis Virus Vaccines](#) which may assist those discussions. Zone Management may also seek advice on the appropriateness of vaccination from Health and Safety Branch in these instances.



Further Information

Safe Work Australia – [Japanese Encephalitis](#)

FRNSW [Hazardous Bites and Stings Factsheet](#)