



KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2390 West Station Street
Kankakee, IL 60901
Phone (815) 802-9400 Fax (815) 802-9391
TTY (815) 802-9312

August 3, 2012
For Immediate Release

Contact: Bryan Kennedy
Kankakee County Health Dept.
Environmental Health
(815) 802-9410

VILLAGE OF BRADLEY AND BOURBONNAIS TOWNSHIP MOSQUITOES POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

Two pools of mosquitoes found July 27, 2012, in the Village of Bradley and in Bourbonnais Township, in Kankakee County, have been confirmed to test positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The locations were near Bradley Bourbonnais Youth Softball League fields in Bourbonnais and near Tom Prince Sports Complex off of North Street in Bradley.

These are the first pools of mosquitoes to test positive for WNV this year in Kankakee County. There have not been any birds to test positive for WNV to this date. Last year 19 counties in Illinois reported a West Nile virus positive mosquito batch, bird and/or human case. A total of 34 Illinois residents contracted West Nile virus disease, and three died; there were no reports of West Nile virus in Kankakee County.

The Kankakee County Health Department stresses that the public should be aware of the presence of WNV at these sites as well as anywhere else in Kankakee County. The Department will continue its surveillance for the presence of WNV.

Because the virus is present in Kankakee County, it is recommended that individuals take a number of precautions to reduce contact with mosquitoes:

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.

- When it is necessary to be outdoors, apply insect repellent as indicated on the repellent label. The more DEET a product contains, the longer the repellent can protect against mosquito bites. However, concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase the length of protection. For most situations, 10 percent to 25 percent DEET is adequate. Apply repellents to clothes whenever possible; apply sparingly to exposed skin if label permits. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Check residential screens, including porches and patios, for tears and other openings and repair, as necessary, to prevent mosquito entry.
- * Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Most people with the virus have no clinical symptoms of illness, but some may become ill 3 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Infections can be mild and include fever, headache, and body aches, or can be severe and marked by headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death. Serious WNV illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older.

Kankakee County's 2012 surveillance for WNV began May 1 and includes collecting dead crows, blue jays, robins and, just recently announced, mourning doves (other species of birds are not collected for testing). The county also collects mosquitoes for testing for WNV. Citizens who see sick or dying crows, blue jays, robins or mourning doves should contact Kankakee County Health Department, Environmental Health, at 815-802-9410, who will determine if the bird is eligible to be picked up for testing. Other surveillance for the presence of WNV includes activity in mosquito vectors, birds, horses, other animals and humans, and