

**Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)**  
**West Nile Virus/ZOONOSES Update #5-2006**  
**Date June 15, 2006**

**WNV**

**General:** With the hot weather, we have seen a moderate increase in mosquito numbers but over a doubling in the number of Culex species mosquitoes (*the key vectors of WNV and WEE*) compared to the previous week. Populations of Culex species mosquitoes continue to increase.

**NATIONAL**

As of June 9, 2006 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has listed 3 verified WNV human cases outside Colorado. One in Mississippi and 2 in Texas. Additional information about national WNV activity is available from CDC at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile>

**COLORADO**

**Mosquitoes:** 104 mosquito pools have been tested throughout the state with no positive results for West Nile Virus. (WNV).

**Birds:** A positive bird (magpie) was reported from Mesa County on June 9, the only positive out of 24 birds tested thus far from around the state.

**Humans:** As of June 9<sup>th</sup> the CDPHE is verifying three possible cases of WNV detected through blood donations. No new cases of West Nile virus (WNV) have been reported from any Colorado counties. For daily updates on WNV in Colorado, please visit CDPHE's Zoonosis website at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/Zoonosis.asp>

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**Mosquito Surveillance:** During the past week, our contractor conducted mosquito trapping at 17 locations in the county which yielded a total of total of 573 mosquitoes with 280 being Culex mosquitoes (48.9% of the total) - The highest number of Culex (all pipiens) were collected at the following sites: Wheat Ridge: Johnson Park at 44<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth (54); Arvada: Ralston Creek at 72<sup>nd</sup> & Simms (59) and Lake Park at 84<sup>th</sup> and Kipling (57).

**Dead Bird Surveillance:** JCDHE will track reports of dead birds east of the foothills and will test any corvids (Jays, Magpies, and Crows) or raptors that die in the foothills that are picked up and submitted by Jefferson County Animal Control. We will closely monitor dead bird reports in conjunction with our sentinel mosquito program.

**Mosquito Control:** Our integrated mosquito control contractor, Ottertail Environmental, continues to identify, monitor, and inspect "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county. From June 1 to 8, 2006, 551 larval habitat site inspections were conducted. Out of these inspections, 17 sites were treated for Culex larvae and 34 sites were found breeding non-vector mosquitoes.

**Remember:** The use of insect repellent should always be part of all outdoor activities. Common sense should apply even in this low risk period. Use DEET or one of the two new EPA approved repellents, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, (according to labeled instructions) and wearing long sleeves and pants are wise practices, particularly when outdoors during dawn and dusk. Draining and emptying even the smallest of containers around the yard are prudent mosquito control practices. Many of those infected with WNV in Colorado were bitten by WNV carrying mosquitoes in their own yards.

**Mosquito Complaint Hotline:** Ottertail Environmental operates a toll free telephone line for citizen reports and concerns, that number is 1-888-774-2161 and locally the number is 303 273 2878.

**BATS, BATS, BATS.... &... RABIES**

This year Colorado and Jefferson County are witnessing significant increases in both human and animal bat exposures and rabid bats. This year to date there has been three positive tests for rabies in bats out of the 7 submitted for testing from Jefferson County. Because bats are the primary carriers of rabies in Colorado all citizens need to be reminded to LEAVE BATS ALONE. If citizens or their pets are exposed to bats we request they contact their animal control agencies ASAP: Arvada Animal Management: 720-898-6850, Edgewater Animal Control 303-235-0500, Golden Animal Control at 303-384-8045, Jefferson County Animal Control at 303-271-5070, Lakewood Animal Control 303-987-7111, Westminster Animal Management 303-430-2400 X4326 or Wheat Ridge Animal Control at 303-237-2220.

**Plague**

A cat from the Evergreen area was recently diagnosed with plague. Plague has been detected in 7 counties in Colorado so far this year. Ten of the cases are free roaming cats. We urge citizens to be responsible pet owners.

### **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome Update --- Colorado**

The state Health Department and Garfield County are currently investigating the second case of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) reported in Colorado in 2006. CDC is suggesting that a greater risk for human hantavirus infection might exist this year. This follows Colorado's record number of cases in 2005 (n=11). Cumulatively, Colorado has recorded 51 cases of HPS; 17 (33%) have been fatal. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a rodent borne viral disease characterized by severe pulmonary illness and a case-fatality ratio of 30%--40%. Sin Nombre virus causes the majority of HPS cases in the United States, and the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) is its predominant reservoir. The CDC recently published a report that describes an increase in human cases of HPS reported during January--March 2006 from Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, and Washington state. The findings emphasize the need for renewed attention to reducing the risk for hantavirus exposure. To view the full report, go to:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html)

### **For More Information on WNV and other Zoonoses:**

Visit our web site for information and other resources on WNV at  
[http://www.jefferson.co.us/ext/dpt/health/home\\_ehs.htm](http://www.jefferson.co.us/ext/dpt/health/home_ehs.htm) or call 303 239 7075.

Or contact [dvolkel@jeffco.us](mailto:dvolkel@jeffco.us) or [jdale@jeffco.us](mailto:jdale@jeffco.us)