

**Jefferson County Public Health
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 11
September 3, 2009**

General:

The risk for WNV in Jefferson County has been low this season and will continue to get lower the later we get into September. Historically, by the middle of September, mosquito numbers and activity are minimal. However, everyone should remain vigilant and practice the 4-Ds on the possible chance that warmer or hot weather over the next two weeks could possibly increase mosquito numbers.

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 142 human cases of WNV from (12) Arizona, (1) Arkansas, (19) California, (8) Idaho, (1) Indiana, (1) Iowa, (4) Kansas, (10) Louisiana (1) Minnesota, (26 with 2 fatalities) Mississippi, (1) Missouri, (2) Montana, (7) Nebraska, (12) Nevada, (1) New York, (1) Ohio, (1) Oklahoma, (1) Pennsylvania, (11) South Dakota, (2) Tennessee, (13 with 1 fatality) Texas, (1) Washington, and (3) Wyoming.

For updates during the 2009 season visit the CDC and USGS websites at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control07Maps.htm>

http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_us_human.html

WNV COLORADO

The number of reported cases of human West Nile Virus (WNV) infection posted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is twenty. Cases have been reported from Adams (1), Arapahoe (4), Boulder (2), Jefferson (3), Larimer (3), Otero (3), and Weld (4) counties.

Colorado Counties submitted 2,949 mosquito pools for testing during the 2009 season. There were 65 positive WNV mosquito pools from Adams (1), Boulder (4), Delta (1) Jefferson, (1), Larimer (38), Las Animas (1), Logan (3), Prowers (4) and Weld (12).

Due to the current low human case counts, seasonal decline in density of Culex mosquito populations statewide, and very low detection of circulating West Nile Virus, CDPHE has ended mosquito surveillance for the 2009 season. It is expected that a small number of additional human cases will continue to occur through September.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/wnv/index.html>

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County has three human cases of West Nile virus.

The final week of mosquito trapping yielded 438 mosquitoes with 246 being Culex mosquitoes. The highest numbers of Culex mosquitoes were caught at Arvada Blunn Reservoir in Arvada (56) and Fossil Trace Golf Course in Golden (50). JCPH submitted 61 pools of culex mosquitoes during the 2009 season and one pool tested positive for WNV.

During the past week there were 399 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 103 of those sites were treated with larvicide. This will be the final week of larval site surveillance and control for the 2009 season.

REMEMBER:

- Use insect repellent for **ALL** outdoor activities. **Use DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus**, (Follow The Label Directions Carefully).
- **DAWN and DUSK** are when mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active, so limit outdoor activity during these times and dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors and be sure to cover feet and ankles.
- **DRAIN and EMPTY** all containers (toys, kiddie pools, flowerpots, buckets) in your yards because mosquitoes carrying WNV can bite at anytime and anywhere, even in your own yards. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clean and running freely.

- Check your home to make sure all windows and doors have screens and are in good condition. This will reduce the chance of mosquitoes and bats gaining entry into your home.
- For additional information on repellents and on how to protect you and your family around home go to <http://health.jeffco.us> and go to WNV under animal borne diseases.

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 local number is 303 273-2878.

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Public Health has tested 56 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with 24 bats, 4 raccoons, and 6 skunks tested. Two bats have tested positive for rabies this summer.

To prevent possible rabies exposure to you or your pets remember to keep your pets (cats, dogs, and ferrets) up-to-date on their vaccinations. Do not handle wild animals and instruct your children not to approach wild animals. Keep bats out of your home by sealing all openings and keep screens (in good condition) on all doors and windows.

PLAGUE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The plague area located in a vacant lot between Simms and Alkire and south of Ken Caryl Avenue remains posted and JCPH reminds everyone living in the area in and around the area take the necessary precautions, listed below, to protect themselves and their pets from plague.

- Stay out of prairie dog habitat
- Avoid all contact with wild rodents
- Do not feed or play with wild rodents
- Do not touch sick or dead animals
- Keep pets on a leash while in the area
- Consult your veterinarian for flea control of your pet
- See a physician if you become ill within one week of visiting the area. Plague is a treatable illness

The Westminster Open Space located at 105th and Simms is still closed because of plague. JCPH has investigated the area and there is still flea activity in the abandoned prairie dog burrows. The area will be investigated again after the first frost. For updates on the Westminster open space visit the City of Westminster web site at <http://www.ci.westminster.co.us>.

For Additional Information on

WNV and other animal-borne diseases visit our web site at <http://health.jeffco.us> or contact dvolkel@jeffco.us or jdale@jeffco.us