

**Jefferson County Public Health  
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses  
Newsletter # 1  
June 19, 2009**

**WNV NATIONAL**

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 1 human case of WNV fever from South Dakota:

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](http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_us_human.html)

**WNV COLORADO**

Mosquito surveillance and testing in Colorado officially began on June 1, 2009. There have not been any reported human cases.

Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) has posted 53 tests results from across Colorado and there has been one positive WNV mosquito pool from the Fort Collins area.

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

**WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Mosquito Surveillance: Ottertail Environmental began larval surveillance and control and adult mosquito surveillance on June 8, 2009. They are monitoring and inspecting "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county and will continue this process into the month of September.

During the past week, our contractor conducted mosquito trapping at 11 locations in the county. The trapping yielded a total of 166 mosquitoes with 8 Culex mosquitoes. To date 4 pools of culex mosquitoes have been submitted for testing none of them have tested positive for WNV.

During the past week there were 372 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 81 of those sites were treated with larvicide. The wet and cooler weather this spring have slowed mosquito activity but as the season progresses into the warmer months the number of mosquitoes will increase so we will continue to remind everyone to:

- Use insect repellent for **ALL** outdoor activities. **Use DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus**, (Follow The Label Directions Carefully).
- **At Dawn and Dusk** 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 COLORADO**

Skunk Rabies Update

CDPHE surveillance continues to document skunk rabies transmission throughout the eastern plains counties. To date 5 skunks submitted have tested positive for rabies. The positives have come from: Kit Carson, Yuma, Kiowa, and Morgan (2) counties. CDPHE encourages the reporting of any abnormal skunk

behavior during daytime, attacking people or pets, aggressive behavior, to local health departments, animal control agencies or wildlife officials.

### **RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**

JCDHE has tested 16 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with two of those being bats. None of animals tested thus far have tested positive for rabies. Bats historically have been the most common carriers of rabies in Colorado so everyone should remember not to approach or touch bats especially if they are seen during the day and/or acting strange.

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.

### **HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS)**

As the weather warms and people spend more time outdoors and begin their annual spring cleaning projects everyone should keep in mind the following:

HPS is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus (hantavirus). Hantavirus is carried by wild rodents, particularly deer mice, and is present in their droppings (feces), urine and saliva. These dried droppings or urine can be stirred up in dust and breathed in by people. People may get hantavirus when they breathe in air contaminated by the virus. Hantavirus has not been shown to infect other kinds of animals, such as dogs, cats or farm animals. The disease is not contagious and does not spread from human to human.

Symptoms: The incubation period (time between exposure and appearance of symptoms) varies widely, but ranges from 1 to 6 weeks, with an average of 2-3 weeks. First symptoms of HPS include fever, headache, and muscle pain, severe abdominal, joint and lower back pain, nausea and vomiting. A cough and shortness of breath usually develops 1 to 5 days after the onset of symptoms. The primary symptom of HPS is difficulty in breathing due to fluid build-up in the lungs. This can quickly progress to respiratory failure.

Preventing Hantavirus: The best way to prevent the risk of hantavirus infection is to control the presence of rodents in and around the home. This includes sealing up rodent entry holes or gaps; trapping mice and rats; and, being careful not to create food sources for the rodents, i.e. keeping yard clean and putting away pet food. Hantavirus is often encountered when cleaning vacated sheds, cabins or other enclosed areas, so it is especially important that areas where rodents have been are cleaned cautiously and carefully. Areas should not be swept or vacuumed as this can stir up dust. Instead, use gloves and thoroughly wet contaminated areas with a bleach solution or household disinfectant. Once wet, contaminated materials can be taken up with damp towel and then mopped or sponged with bleach solution or household disinfectant. Contaminated gloves should be disinfected before taking them off. After taking off the clean gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water.

**For More Information** on WNV and other animal-borne diseases visit our web site at

<http://health.jeffco.us>

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