

**Jefferson County Public Health  
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses  
Newsletter # 3  
July 1, 2009**

**WNV NATIONAL**

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 2 human cases of WNV from (1) South Dakota and (1) Texas.

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**

State health officials confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus on June 26, 2009. The case was reported from Jefferson County and the patient is recovering from their illnesses.

Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) has posted over 240 mosquito pool testing 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**

Jefferson County had its first reported human case of West Nile virus on June 26, 2009. The patient is recovering at home from their illness.

Mosquito Surveillance: Ottertail Environmental continues to conduct larval surveillance and control and adult mosquito surveillance. 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 1112 mosquitoes with 41 Culex mosquitoes. To date 8 pools of culex mosquitoes have been submitted for testing from Jefferson County and all tests thus far have been negative for WNV.

During the past week there were 430 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 80 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.

Past WNV seasons shows that around 85 percent of people who became ill with West Nile virus were infected during a six-week period from July 1 through the second week of August so we strongly urge 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 JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Jefferson County Public Health has tested 26 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with five bats tested and all animals tested thus far are negative 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)**

The wet spring has led to increased rodent population and increased risk for exposure to Hantavirus. With the warmer weather is allowing people to spend more time outdoors and start 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 Additional 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)