

**Jefferson County Public Health
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 7
August 7, 2009**

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 33 human cases of WNV from (5) Arizona, (1) Arkansas, (5) California, (1) Idaho, (1) Minnesota, (6) Mississippi, (1) Montana, (1) Nebraska, (5) Nevada, (1) New York, (3) South Dakota, (1) Tennessee, and (2) Texas.

For updates during the 2009 season visit the CDC and USGS websites at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/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 in Colorado for the 2009 season is four. Cases have been reported from Jefferson (2) and Weld (2) counties. At this point during the 2008 season, 15 cases had been reported.

As of August 3rd, 1,917 mosquito pools have been submitted for testing, along with one avian and 14 equine specimens. There have been no positive avian or equine results and only 18 (0.9%) mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV from Adams (1), Boulder (3), Larimer (2), Logan (3), Prowers (3) and Weld (6).

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

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County has two human cases of West Nile virus.

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.

Jefferson County experienced a lot of late night thunder storms during the past week which helped keep adult mosquitoes down during our weekly trapping. Mosquito trapping yielded over 850 mosquitoes with 669 Culex mosquitoes. The highest numbers of Culex mosquitoes were caught at Sanctuary Park in Lakewood (242) using the sum of two trap nights and Fossil Trace Golf Course in Golden (130) using the sum of two trap nights. To date 64 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 672 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 220 of those sites were treated with larvicide. We are still in the peak time of mosquito season and JCPH continues to urge everyone to:

- 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 45 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with 18 bats, 4 raccoons, and 4 skunks 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.

PLAGUE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Westminster Open Space located at 105th and Simms is still closed because fleas are still being found in the prairie dog burrows. For updates on the Westminster open space visit the City of Westminster web site at <http://www.ci.westminster.co.us>.

Plague is transmitted via fleas that have bitten plague-infected wild rodents. Cats most commonly contract the disease from flea bites, a rodent scratch/bite, or ingestion of a rodent. Dogs are generally resistant to plague however they may pick up and carry plague-infected fleas. Humans may be infected with plague through bites from infected fleas, by the cough from an infected animal, or by direct contact (i.e. through a bite) with blood or tissues of infected animals.

Residents are urged to talk with their veterinarian regarding effective flea control products -- always read and follow directions on flea product labels. People can protect themselves and their pets from plague by rodent-proofing their homes; maintaining litter and trash-free environments; storing food and garbage properly to prevent rodent access, and keeping domesticated animals indoors. When recreating, pet owners should use insect repellent, keep their pets on leashes, and use flea control products on pets. If these reasonable precautions are taken, the probability of contracting plague is extremely low.

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