

**Jefferson County Public Health
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 9
August 21, 2009**

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 73 human cases of WNV from (7) Arizona, (1) Arkansas, (10) California, (1) Idaho, (1) Iowa, (2) Kansas, (3) Louisiana (1) Minnesota, (15 with 2 fatalities) Mississippi, (1) Missouri, (1) Montana, (1) Nebraska, (10) Nevada, (1) New York, (1) Pennsylvania, (3) South Dakota, (1) Tennessee (11) Texas and (2) 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 in Colorado for the 2009 season is now nine. Cases have been reported from Arapahoe (2), Boulder (1), Jefferson (2), Otero (2), and Weld (2) counties.

As of August 14th, 2,559 mosquito pools have been submitted for testing. There have been 39 positive WNV mosquito pools from Adams (1), Boulder (3), Delta (1), Larimer (18), Las Animas (1), Logan (3), Prowers (3) and Weld (9).

<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.

Mosquito trapping during the past week yielded 2,058 mosquitoes with 1,192 being Culex mosquitoes. The highest numbers of Culex mosquitoes were caught at Sanctuary Park in Lakewood (250) and Lake Park in Western Arvada (159). To date 61 pools of culex mosquitoes have been submitted for testing from Jefferson County and thus far all tests have been negative for WNV.

During the past week there were 419 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 130 of those sites were treated with larvicide.

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 54 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with 22 bats, 4 raccoons, and 5 skunks tested. Our first positive test for rabies was a bat submitted this week.

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

Jefferson County Public Health received positive test results for plague from a flea specimen collected from a prairie dog die-off located at the SW corner of Ken Caryl Avenue and Simms Street in Littleton. The area of concern is a vacant lot between Simms and Alkire and south of Ken Caryl Avenue. Plague is an infectious disease caused by *Yersinia pestis*, a bacterium. JCPH recommends that 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 veterinarian for pet flea control
- See a physician if you become ill within one week of visiting the area. Plague is a treatable illness

Prairie dogs are extremely susceptible to plague. Environmental Health Services submitted flea specimens to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for testing on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 and received results back this morning. The area is being closed to the public and posted with plague warnings signs today. Dr. Jim Dale, DVM, MPH, Director of Environmental Health Services said, "There have been no reported human cases of plague in the area and if precautions are taken the disease is not considered to be a threat to humans."

The Westminster Open Space located at 105th and Simms is still closed because of plague. 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