

**Jefferson County Public Health
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 4
July 9, 2009**

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 6 human cases of WNV from (1) Arkansas, (1) Arizona, (1) Idaho, (1) Nevada, (1) South Dakota, and (1) 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

Last week state health officials confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus. The case was reported from Jefferson County and the patient is recovering from their illnesses. This week Weld County has reported the second human case and this patient is also at home recovering from their illness.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) have posted over 500 mosquito pool testing results from across Colorado and there has been one positive WNV mosquito pool from the Fort Collins area. At this time last year there had been 729 mosquito pools submitted for testing.

<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 1719 mosquitoes with 423 Culex mosquitoes. The highest numbers of Culex were caught at Arvada/Blunn Reservoir in Arvada (128) using the sum of 2 trap nights and Sanctuary Park in Lakewood (126) using the sum of 2 trap nights. To date 14 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 444 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 93 of those sites were treated with larvicide. The wet and cooler weather this spring have slowed mosquito activity but as the warmer weather is helping to increase the number of mosquitoes.

We have entered the peak time of mosquito season and we have increased our surveillance efforts. Past seasons indicate that 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 continue 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 30 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with 7 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. Last week a rabid bat with human exposure was reported next door in Gilpin County.

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.

Skunk Rabies in Colorado

The most recent case of skunk rabies has been confirmed from Elbert County. This is not unexpected due to the proximity of Elbert County to neighboring counties that have already reported skunk rabies. Since January 1, 2009, 16 laboratory confirmed cases of skunk rabies have been reported from the following counties: Morgan (6), Yuma (4), Lincoln (1), Kiowa (1), Kit Carson (1), El Paso County [NE corner] (1), Arapahoe County [Bennett](1), and Elbert County [Kiowa] (1).

A high level of vigilance continues to be important for veterinarians and animal control officers as the epizootic of skunk rabies continues to expand. Any skunk suspected of rabies or that has potentially had contact with people or domestic animals should be euthanized and tested for rabies.

Rabies statistics, pet exposure protocols, bite management and protocols for specimen submission are available on the CDPHE website at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/rabies/index.html>

PETTING ZOOS, DISEASE AND HAND WASHING

Exhibits such as petting zoos and fairs allow children and adults to have the thrilling experience of coming face to face with animals. This interaction allows people to learn more about animals and helps to build an important human-animal bond.

Unfortunately, many people become sick every year because animals in these exhibits sometimes carry germs that are harmful to humans (Centers for Disease Control (CDC)). Therefore it is essential that everyone wash their hands after petting and handling these animals. The CDC recommends:

Hand-Washing Stations

- Locate the nearest hand-washing at the event
- Always wash your hands after petting or touching the animal and/or the animal enclosure, especially before eating and drinking.
- Running water and soap are best. Use hand gels only if running water and soap are not available.

Food and Drinks

- Keep food and drinks out of animal areas.
- Do not share food or drinks with animals.
- Do not eat or drink raw (unpasteurized) dairy products.

Children

- Closely supervise children under 5 years old
- Never allow children to put their hands, toys or other objects like pacifiers in their mouth while interacting with animals.
- Supervise hand-washing to guarantee that it is done correctly.

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