

**Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)**  
**West Nile Virus and Zoonoses**  
**Newsletter # 3**  
**June 27, 2007**

**WNV NATIONAL**

Outside of Colorado, several states have indicated they may have human cases of WNV but at this time CDC has listed only 6 human cases of WNV: 4 from Mississippi, 1 from Iowa, and 1 from South Dakota. For CDC updates visit their website at

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control07Maps.htm>

**WNV COLORADO**

During the past week three mosquito pools tested positive for WNV from Larimer County. To date the CDPHE laboratory has tested 12 dead birds and over 235 mosquito pools submitted from Colorado counties. All except the Larimer County specimens have been negative.

CDPHE is investigating four suspected human cases that have been reported from the counties of Boulder, Cheyenne, and Logan. One WNV-positive blood donor was reported from Morgan County and more testing is pending at this time.

At this time there have not been any confirmed human cases reported in Colorado. For updates on WNV in Colorado, please visit CDPHE's Zoonosis website at

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

**WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**Mosquito Surveillance:** Our contractor began mosquito trapping twice a week at 16 locations in the county, which will continue until the second week of August. This week's trapping yielded a total of 1098 mosquitoes with 338 being Culex mosquitoes. Ottertail Environmental submitted 4 pools of Culex mosquitoes to the state lab for WNV testing during this past week bringing the total number submitted to 7. Jefferson County has not had a positive mosquito pool for WNV this season. The highest numbers of Culex were caught at Johnson Park in Wheat Ridge (68) and Sanctuary Park in Lakewood (43). The total to date is 1,612 mosquitoes with 444 being Culex.

**Mosquito Control:** Our integrated mosquito control contractor, Ottertail Environmental, identifies, monitors, and inspects "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county. During the past week Ottertail conducted 498 larval habitat site inspections. Out of these inspections, 110 sites were treated for Culex larvae and 5 sites were found breeding non-vector mosquitoes.

**Dead Bird Surveillance:** All reports of dead birds should be sent to the Colorado Help Line at 1-877-462-2911 for tracking and counting. JCDHE will monitor dead bird reports and will work with the animal control agencies for selecting and testing of dead corvids (Jays, Magpies, and Crows) that die in county. We will closely monitor all dead bird reports in conjunction with our sentinel mosquito program.

**REMEMBER:**

- **EVERYONE should always use repellent for ALL outdoor activities. Use DEET or one of the two new EPA approved repellents, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, (according to labeled instructions).**
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Citizens should **D**rain and **E**mpy all containers in their yard because you can be bitten by WNV carrying mosquitoes in your own yards.
- 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.

**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:**

**The coyote in Powers County that was report positive for rabies last week was confirmed as having skunk strain rabies.** Authorities are investigating a bite case where a fox apparently attacked some children in west Denver. Nothing further about this case is known at this time.

### **Rabies In Jefferson County**

JCDHE has tested a total of 31 animals for rabies with 10 of those being bats and all tests have been negative.

### **Plague and Tularemia in Colorado Cats**

The epidemiology, clinical presentation, and risk factors of feline plague and tularemia are similar. Infected cats usually have a history of being outdoor, free-roaming hunters that are exposed by consuming infected rodents and rabbits. Both diseases can be transmitted directly from an infected cat to a person via bites, scratches, contact with wound or abscess exudates or pneumonic spread. In addition, cats can bring plague-infected fleas into the home environment.

Cats suspected of having plague or tularemia should be hospitalized, using appropriate infection control practices, at a veterinarian hospital until completion of at least 48 hours of an appropriate antibiotic. Exposed persons should be placed on active fever watch for seven days. High-risk exposures, such as a bite or face-to-face contact with a cat with radiographically confirmed pneumonia, would warrant antibiotic prophylaxis. Environmental investigation of the home is usually not helpful given the large area a cat may roam.

### **Plague in Jefferson County**

Because of this possibility of encountering plague in the rodent populations JCDHE recommends the following procedures for the remainder of the year.

- Do not feed squirrels or other rodents. This brings them onto your property and in close contact with each other, increasing the risk of disease transmission between squirrels.
- Rodent-proof your houses and outbuildings.
- Don't let dogs or cats catch or eat squirrels.
- Do not allow pets to roam freely, and keep them treated for fleas according to a veterinarian's advice.
- Be aware of rodent and rabbit populations in your area and report sudden die-offs or multiple dead animals.
- Contact your physician if you develop a high fever or other plague symptoms following a fleabite or direct contact with dead rodents or rabbits

To date no human cases of plague have been reported in Colorado.

For more information on plague, please visit CDPHE's Zoonoses website at:  
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/>

HELP line is also available to answer questions 1-877-462-2911.

### **For More Information on WNV and other Zoonoses:**

Visit our web site for information and other resources on WNV at  
[http://www.jefferson.co.us/ext/dpt/health/home\\_ehs.htm](http://www.jefferson.co.us/ext/dpt/health/home_ehs.htm) or call 303 239 7075.  
or contact [dvolkel@jeffco.us](mailto:dvolkel@jeffco.us) or [jdale@jeffco.us](mailto:jdale@jeffco.us)