

Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)
West Nile Virus and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 5
July 11, 2007

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, CDC and USGS have listed 24 human cases of WNV: 1 from Arkansas, 3 from California, 1 from Illinois 1 from Iowa, 6 from Mississippi (1 death), 2 from Nebraska, 1 from North Dakota, 7 from South Dakota, 1 from Texas, 1 from Wyoming: For updates visit their websites at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control07Maps.htm>

http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_us_human.html

WNV COLORADO

These next few weeks are typically the peak of the WNV transmission season. At this time there has only two human cases of WNV fever and one asymptomatic blood donor reported. However, due to a 1-2 week incubation period and nearly 3 week lag time between onset and report date, people being infected now will not be reported until sometime in early August. The previous four seasons indicate that approximately 85% of human cases were infected between July 1 and the second week of August and half of those were infected in a narrow window from the second week of July until the first week of August.

Of concern is the report from many counties that Culex mosquito populations are extremely high and climbing. In many areas the numbers being reported are at or above the 2003 counts for the same time period. Nine mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile Virus, eight in Larimer County and one in Weld County.

To date the CDPHE laboratory has tested 21 dead birds and over 1100 mosquito pools submitted from Colorado counties. All except the Larimer and Weld County mosquito specimens have been negative.

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

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mosquito Surveillance: Our contractor is 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 1243 mosquitoes with 723 being Culex mosquitoes. Ottertail Environmental submitted 8 pools of Culex mosquitoes to the state lab for WNV testing during this past week bringing the total number submitted to 22. All of the mosquito pools from Jefferson County has been negative for WNV this season. The highest numbers of Culex were caught at Johnson Park in Wheat Ridge (97) and Blunn Reservoir in Arvada (246). The total to date is 3,874 mosquitoes with 1553 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 635 larval habitat site inspections. Out of these inspections, 168 sites were treated for Culex larvae and 14 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.

In the next two weeks the number of positive mosquito pools and infection rate is expected to climb rapidly so EVERYONE SHOULD REMEMBER:

- **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 **DRAIN** and **EMPTY** 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 JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCDHE has tested a total of 36 animals for rabies with 12 of those being bats and all testing results have been negative.

Plague in Jefferson County

Because of the possibility of encountering plague in the rodent populations JCDHE recommends the following procedures.

- 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 or call 303 239 7075.
or contact dvolkel@jeffco.us or jdale@jeffco.us