

Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 6
July 18, 2007

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, CDC and USGS have listed 52 human cases of WNV: 7 from Arizona, 1 from Arkansas, 9 from California, 2 from Illinois, 3 from Iowa, 1 from Minnesota, 8 from Mississippi (1 death), 2 from Nebraska, 1 from Nevada, 8 from North Dakota, 7 from South Dakota, 1 from Texas 1 from Utah, 1 from Virginia, 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

The state has three human cases from Logan, Cheyenne and Boulder counties, and 3 blood donors from Morgan, Boulder and Larimer counties (compared with 4 cases and 2 donors reported at this time last year). All 3 cases were diagnosed with uncomplicated fever and serological testing is pending for the blood donors.

Colorado has seen a jump in the WNV positive mosquito pool specimens in the past week. Thirty one of the 1,976 mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV: Boulder 10, El Paso 1, Jefferson 1, Larimer 9, Logan 1, Mesa 2, Otero 2, Prowers 1, and Weld 4.

To date the CDPHE laboratory has tested 34 dead birds and one bird from Weld County tested positive for WNV. For WNV updates from CDPHE visit their website at

<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 1029 mosquitoes with 540 being Culex mosquitoes. Ottertail Environmental submitted 12 pools of Culex mosquitoes to the state lab for WNV testing during this past week bringing the total number submitted to 34. Jefferson County had its first positive mosquito pool with mosquitoes combined from Johnson Park in Wheat Ridge and Sanctuary Park in Lakewood. The highest numbers of Culex were caught at Johnson Park in Wheat Ridge (92) and Blunn Reservoir in Arvada (274).

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 644 larval habitat site inspections. Out of these inspections, 162 sites were treated for Culex larvae and 15 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.

Based on the past 4 WNV seasons we have entered the period when positive mosquito pools and human infection rates 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.

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS) IN COLORADO

Colorado has experienced a sudden increase in HPS cases in the last two weeks. Four cases have been reported from Park (2), Custer (1) and Costilla (1) counties within the last 20 days; three of these were fatal. A total of six cases with 4 deaths have been reported so far this season. The number of cases reported so far this year exceeds the average number of cases reported by this time in previous years, with the exception of 2005 which was Colorado's record year (n=11).

Given the rapid onset of shock and respiratory failure, early recognition of HPS is critical in reducing mortality. Obtaining an exposure history to rodents or rodent-infested structures, a complete blood count with differential and platelet count, and a chest X-ray are essential pieces of information when HPS infection is suspected. Due to the rapid progression of pulmonary edema and shock, it is recommended that highly suspect HPS cases be hospitalized for observation and management until laboratory confirmation is obtained.

Guidelines for emergency departments and health care providers are posted on CDPHE's website: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/hanta/PhysicianGuidanceHPS.pdf>

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCDHE has tested a total of 37 animals for rabies with 13 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 available to answer questions dealing with WNV, plague and rabies 1-877-462-2911.

For More Information on WNV and other Zoonoses visit our web site 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