

Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 1
June 11, 2008

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 8 human cases of WNV with no deaths: 1 from Arizona, 3 from Mississippi, 1 from Oklahoma, 1 from Tennessee, and 2 from Texas.

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

Mosquito surveillance and testing in Colorado officially began on June 1, 2008. There have not been any reported human cases.

The total number of mosquito pools submitted thus far is 4 and there have not been any WNV positive pools.

To date the CDPHE laboratory has tested 2 dead birds and there have not been any WNV positives.

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

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mosquito Surveillance: Ottertail Environmental began larval surveillance and control and adult mosquito surveillance on June 2, 2008. They will identify, monitor, and inspect "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county and will continue this process through the month of September.

During the past week, our contractor conducted mosquito trapping at 16 locations in the county. The trapping yielded a total of 62 mosquitoes with no Culex mosquitoes.

During the past week there were 240 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 17 areas treated with larvicide. The wet and cooler weather have slowed mosquito activity but as the season progresses into the warmer months the number of mosquitoes will increase so everyone should continue to:

- **Use repellent for ALL outdoor activities. Use DEET, 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.
- For additional information on repellents and on how to protect you and your family around home go to <http://health.jeffco.us>

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

Skunk Rabies Update

CDPHE surveillance continues to document skunk rabies transmission throughout the eastern plains counties. To date six of 15 skunks have tested positive, from: Kit Carson, Yuma (2), Kiowa and Arapahoe (2) counties. Previous reports listed 2 skunks from Adams county but after further investigation, it was determined these were actually in Arapahoe County. Three of these skunks were involved in exposures to domestic pets. Two exposed dogs have been revaccinated and are currently being quarantined; an unvaccinated cat was euthanized. CDPHE encourages the reporting of any abnormal skunk behavior -

active during daytime, attacking people or pets, aggressive behavior, to local health, animal control or wildlife officials.

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCDHE has tested 11 animals for rabies in 2008 with 1 of those being a bat and none of them tested positive for rabies. Bats have historically 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.

To prevent possible rabies exposure to you or your pets remember to keep your pets 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.

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS)

There have been four cases of HPS reported thus far in Colorado with one fatality. As the weather warms and people spend more time outdoors and begin their annual spring cleaning projects everyone should keep in mind the following:

HPS is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus (hantavirus). Hantavirus is carried by wild rodents, particularly deer mice, and is present in their droppings (feces), urine and saliva. These dried droppings or urine can be stirred up in dust and breathed in by people. People may get hantavirus when they breathe in air contaminated by the virus. Hantavirus has not been shown to infect other kinds of animals, such as dogs, cats or farm animals. The disease is not contagious and does not spread from human to human.

Symptoms: The incubation period (time between exposure and appearance of symptoms) varies widely, but ranges from 1 to 6 weeks, with an average of 2-3 weeks. First symptoms of HPS include fever, headache, and muscle pain, severe abdominal, joint and lower back pain, nausea and vomiting. A cough and shortness of breath usually develops 1 to 5 days after the onset of symptoms. The primary symptom of HPS is difficulty in breathing due to fluid build-up in the lungs. This can quickly progress to respiratory failure.

Preventing Hantavirus: The best way to prevent the risk of hantavirus infection is to control the presence of rodents in and around the home. This includes sealing up rodent entry holes or gaps; trapping mice and rats; and, being careful not to create food sources for the rodents, i.e. keeping yard clean and putting away pet food. Hantavirus is often encountered when cleaning vacated sheds, cabins or other enclosed areas, so it is especially important that areas where rodents have been are cleaned cautiously and carefully. Areas should not be swept or vacuumed as this can stir up dust. Instead, use gloves and thoroughly wet contaminated areas with a bleach solution or household disinfectant. Once wet, contaminated materials can be taken up with damp towel and then mopped or sponged with bleach solution or household disinfectant. Contaminated gloves should be disinfected before taking them off. After taking off the clean gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water.

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

<http://health.jeffco.us>

or contact dvolkel@jeffco.us or jdale@jeffco.us