

Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE)
West Nile Virus/ZOONOSES Update #6-2006
Date June 23, 2006

WNV

General: With the hot weather, we have seen populations of Culex species mosquitoes continue to increase. (the key vectors of WNV and WEE) compared to the previous week.

NATIONAL

As of June 13, 2006 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has listed 3 verified WNV human cases outside Colorado. One in Mississippi and 2 in Texas. Additional information about national WNV activity is available from CDC at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile>

COLORADO

Mosquitoes: CDPHE has tested 168 mosquito pools throughout the state and there have been no positive results for West Nile Virus. (WNV).

Birds: A positive bird (magpie) was reported from Mesa County on June 9, the only positive out of 30 birds tested thus far from around the state.

Humans: As of June 16th the CDPHE as verified one WNV case and two cases of viremic blood donors. No new cases of West Nile virus (WNV) have been reported from any Colorado counties the past week. For daily updates on WNV in Colorado, please visit CDPHE's Zoonosis website at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/Zoonosis.asp>

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mosquito Surveillance: During the past week, our contractor conducted mosquito trapping at 17 locations in the county which yielded a total of 553 mosquitoes with 259 being Culex mosquitoes (45.8% of the total) - The highest number of Culex were collected at the following sites: Wheat Ridge: Johnson Park at 44th and Wadsworth (35); Arvada: Ralston Creek at 72nd & Simms (54), Lake Park at 84th and Kipling (32), and Lakewood: Sanctuary Park at Florida and Garrison (32).

Dead Bird Surveillance: JCDHE will track reports of dead birds east of the foothills and will test any corvids (Jays, Magpies, and Crows) or raptors that die in the foothills that are picked up and submitted by Jefferson County Animal Control. We will closely monitor dead bird reports in conjunction with our sentinel mosquito program.

Mosquito Control: Our integrated mosquito control contractor, Ottertail Environmental, continues to identify, monitor, and inspect "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county. From June 9 to 15, 2006, 446 larval habitat site inspections were conducted. Out of these inspections, 49 sites were treated for Culex larvae and 29 sites were found breeding non-vector mosquitoes.

Remember: Always make the use of repellent part of all outdoor activities. Common sense should apply even in this low risk period. 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. Draining and emptying even the smallest of containers around the yard are good mosquito control practices. Many of those infected with WNV in Colorado were bitten by WNV carrying mosquitoes in their own yards.

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 number is 303 858 8350.

Wild Animal Interactions

This year Colorado and Jefferson County are witnessing significant increases in wild animals at lower elevations. This year there has been three positive tests for rabies in bats out of the 7 submitted for testing from Jefferson County, several dog interactions with raccoons, and increased numbers of wild animals in general. All citizens need to be reminded to LEAVE WILD ANIMALS ALONE. If citizens or their pets have any interactions sick or injured animals they need to contact their local animal control agency: Arvada Animal Management: 720-898-6850, Edgewater Animal Control 303-235-0500, Golden Animal Control at 303-384-8045, Jefferson County Animal Control at 303-271-5070, Lakewood Animal Control 303-987-7173, Westminster Animal Management 303-430-2400 X4326 or Wheat Ridge Animal Control at 303-237-2220.

Plague

A cat from the Evergreen area was recently diagnosed with plague. Plague has been detected in 7 counties in Colorado so far this year. Ten of the cases are free roaming cats. We urge citizens to be responsible pet owners.

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome --- Colorado

CDC is suggesting that a greater risk for human Hantavirus infection might exist this year. This follows Colorado's record number of cases in 2005 (n=11). Cumulatively, Colorado has recorded 51 cases of HPS; 17 (33%) have been fatal. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a rodent borne viral disease characterized by severe pulmonary illness and a case-fatality ratio of 30%--40%. Sin Nombre virus causes the majority of HPS cases in the United States, and the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) is its predominant reservoir. Citizens should take precautions when cleaning out buildings and sheds. Let the structure air out prior to any work in the structure and do not generate any dust while cleaning or working in the area. Use wet methods to clean all areas and equipment. Use personal protective equipment when cleaning or working in out buildings or sheds.

The CDC recently published a report that describes an increase in human cases of HPS reported during January--March 2006 from Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, and Washington State. The findings emphasize the need for renewed attention to reducing the risk for hantavirus exposure. To view the full report, go to:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

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