



KANE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2007

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Three Additional Mosquito Pools Test Positive for West Nile

The Kane County Health Department today confirmed that three more mosquito pools have tested positive for the West Nile virus, bringing the total number of pools to five. Two of the mosquito pools were taken from Geneva, east and west side respectively and the third pool was collected from Blackberry Township.

One confirmed human case of West Nile virus has been identified in Kane County, a 46-year-old Elburn woman. In 2006 Kane County reported 4 human cases. In 2002, Kane had nine human cases, none in 2003, two in 2004 and 17 in 2005.

“The identification of additional positive pools is no surprise and further emphasizes the need for all to take precautions to avoid exposure to mosquitoes,” Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Most people with the virus have no clinical symptoms of illness, but some may become ill three to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

Only about two persons out of 10 who are bitten by an infected mosquito will experience any illness. Illness from West Nile is usually mild and includes fever, headache and body aches, but serious illness, such as encephalitis and meningitis, and death are possible. Persons older than 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Precautions include:

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- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including flowerpots, clogged roof gutters, old tires and any other receptacles. Change water in bird baths weekly. Properly maintain wading pools and stock ornamental ponds with fish. Cover rain barrels with 16 mesh wire screen. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

Additional information about West Nile virus can be found on the Department's Web site at www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm or people can call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 866-369-9710 Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

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