

Kane County Health Department
(630) 208-3803

August 8, 2004

Media Release

WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

Seven birds and two mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) so far this year in Kane County. No human cases have been identified in Kane County to date. In the state of Illinois, four human cases have been reported to Illinois Department of Public Health (Jackson, JoDaviess, Kendall and St. Clair counties) Surveillance activity for birds and mosquitos has identified WNV activity in 43 counties across the state.

We are entering the period of greatest risk for WNV exposure and potential infection (August 1 through September 15) as the house mosquito (*Culex pipiens*), the mosquito that transmits WNV, increases in numbers.

It is important to continue to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening.
- When it is necessary to be outdoors, apply insect repellent containing DEET as indicated on the repellent label and wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios

For additional information please contact the Kane County Health Department at 630-208-3801 and for additional informational regarding WNV activity within Illinois visit www.idph.state.il.us