



Kane County Records First West Nile Virus Case of 2021

September 1, 2021 – The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is reporting that it has recorded the first case of West Nile Virus (WNV) this season, a 56-year-old male from Sugar Grove who remains hospitalized.

This summer has been relatively hot and dry, the perfect combination for the Culex mosquito, the species that is known to carry the virus, and it is possible that we will see more cases in people before the season is over. KCHD monitors for WNV activity throughout the county. Visit [KaneHealth.com/Documents/Diseases/WestNile2021_11_17.pdf](https://www.kanehealth.com/Documents/Diseases/WestNile2021_11_17.pdf) to view a map of the trap locations throughout the county.

This is the first human case recorded in the county since two cases were noted in 2017. More information about historical West Nile activity in Kane County is available by visiting [KaneHealth.com/Pages/West-Nile-Statistics.aspx](https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/West-Nile-Statistics.aspx).

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.

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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:

- 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.
- Change water in birdbaths 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.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit KaneHealth.com/Pages/West-Nile-Virus.aspx. Additional information is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) web site at <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus>. The IDPH West Nile Virus Hotline at (866) 369-9710 is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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