



# WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Will County Health Department  
501 Ella Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60433  
Contact Person: Vic Reato  
(815) 727-5088  
September 2, 2009

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **JOLIET SITE PRODUCES WEST NILE VIRUS-POSITIVE MOSQUITOES AGAIN**

JOLIET – Mosquito samples tested by the Will County Health Department September 1 have been confirmed positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

The mosquitoes were taken from a monitoring site operated by Will County Environmental Health August 20. The monitoring site, which is located near the Health Department's Main Office Complex in southeast Joliet, also accounted for the agency's first virus confirmation of 2009.

Mosquitoes collected from the site August 14 yielded WNV confirmations August 17 and 18. An identical Will County Environmental Health monitoring site in Frankfort yielded a WNV positive August 20. The Health Department operates seven monitoring sites across the county and batched samples from each of them are tested twice weekly using a highly-sensitive Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform (RAMP).

While the incidence of WNV confirmations from across Illinois remains low, activity has accelerated since mid-August. Will County is one of 24 Illinois jurisdictions reporting WNV activity so far this year. At least 210 Illinois mosquito batches have tested WNV-positive so far, and the Illinois Department of Public Health reported the state's first human WNV confirmation (from St. Clair County), August 31.

The Health Department urges area residents to protect themselves against mosquito-borne WNV when spending time outdoors. Long sleeves, pants, shoes and socks are strongly advised, and insect repellent containing DEET is also recommended. Mosquitoes are most active near dawn and during early evening hours.

Area residents wishing to report dead birds may do so 24 hours daily at 815-740-7631. Will County has submitted four birds for laboratory analysis so far this summer, but no positives have been reported. Across Illinois, at least 11 birds have tested positive for WNV.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

*Main Office*  
501 Ella Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60433  
Ph 815.727.8480  
Fx 815.727.8484

*Community Health Center*  
1106 Neal Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60433  
Ph 815.727.8670  
Fx 815.727.8852

*Eastern Branch Office*  
44 Towncenter  
University Park, IL 60466  
Ph 815.727.8803  
Ph 708.534.0800  
Fx 708.534.3455

*Northern Branch Office*  
323 Quadrangle Dr.  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
Ph 630.679.7000  
Fx 630.679.7015

