



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Will County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOLINGBROOK MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WNV

JOLIET – Mosquito samples collected July 22 represent the Will County Health Department's first confirmed West Nile Virus (WNV) activity for 2010.

The mosquito samples were taken from a Health Department monitoring site located east of Route 53, not far from the Bolingbrook Park District main office complex. The Health Department operates five monitoring sites across the county and collects samples for analysis from each site on a weekly basis. The positive was confirmed July 27, using the Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform (RAMP).

Will County is one of at least 15 Illinois jurisdictions to report WNV activity during 2010. On July 15, a monitoring site in northern Will County operated by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported the area's first mosquito positive of the summer. Two additional positives were collected from the IDPH site July 20.

No human cases have been reported in Illinois during 2010, but at least 46 Chicagoland mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV since June 22. Cook, DuPage, and Kane counties have also reported WNV activity this year.

WNV is a potentially dangerous infection transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus has accounted for more than 29,150 laboratory-confirmed human infections and at least 1,100 U.S. fatalities since 1999. There have been 52 laboratory-confirmed human cases and two Will County fatalities reported since 2005.



Public Health
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Illinois monitoring sites similar to those operated by Will County totaled 404 WNV-positive mosquito samples in 2009. There were seven virus-positive mosquito samples collected in Will County a year ago, including six from monitoring sites operated by Will County Environmental Health.

Mild cases of WNV may cause a low-grade fever or headache. More acute infections are marked by a rapid onset of high fever with head and body aches, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, and in the most severe cases, paralysis or death. If symptoms are present, they usually occur from 3-14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

The Health Department also collects a limited number of perching birds for laboratory analysis. To report dead birds, telephone 815-740-7631 any time.

Take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Use insect repellent containing DEET when spending time outdoors. Always read label directions before applying mosquito repellent.

For more comprehensive information about statewide WNV activity, visit www.idph.state.il.us.



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