

West Nile virus Detected in Belvidere

A sample of *Culex* mosquitoes collected from the town of Belvidere has tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquito samples were collected from Belvidere Cemetery. The submitted sample was collected on July 16, 2021 in a trap specifically designed to catch *Culex* mosquitoes. *Culex* mosquitoes are the type responsible for transmitting West Nile virus, particularly from bird to bird.

This is the fourth mosquito sample this year to test positive in Warren County. Mid to late August is peak time for humans and other mammals to acquire this virus. Additional trapping for adult mosquitoes is taking place to survey for mosquito species more likely to bite people. **Treatments to reduce adult mosquito populations in that area are scheduled for Saturday July 24, 2021 with a rain date of Sunday July 25, 2021.**

There are high populations of container-breeding mosquitoes in the area that could potentially transmit the virus. **YOU CAN HELP!** Residents are urged to help reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases by following these guidelines:

- Don't produce mosquitoes on your property. **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes can't begin their life without water. Encourage your neighbors to do the same!
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing DEET, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** by calling 908-453-3585 or visiting www.warrencountymosquito.org *Anonymous calls accepted*. Just one neglected pool can produce more than **1 million** mosquitoes and affect people up to **five miles** away.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

West Nile virus symptoms of the mild form include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

Less than one percent of individuals (about 1 in 150 people) infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. West Nile virus infection can be fatal.

Horses can also contract West Nile virus and get seriously ill from the disease. There is a vaccine for horses but they need to be vaccinated every year. Contact your veterinarian for vaccination information.

Updated WNV activity in the county can be found at <http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/diseasesurveillance.php>
Information on WNV, repellents etc. from the Centers for Disease Control at

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>

Notice of spraying to be done for adult mosquitoes in the county can be found at <http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/adulticide.php>