



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

For more information contact:

Kerri Gale, Director of Environmental Health
618-684-3143, ext. 130

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN JACKSON COUNTY MOSQUITOES

Murphysboro, IL – Routine mosquito testing has identified the first batch of mosquitoes positive for West Nile virus in Jackson County in 2020. The mosquitoes were collected on September 10, in and around Murphysboro.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. One out of five people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will experience illness, with symptoms such as fever, nausea, headache and body aches within 3 to 14 days of the bite. In rare cases, illness such as encephalitis and meningitis, with lingering complications and even death, are possible.

Individuals can reduce their risk of West Nile illness and other mosquito-borne diseases by practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel, report.

REDUCE exposure – avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Keep doors and windows closed. Eliminate sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including wading pools, old tires, and other receptacles. Change bird bath water weekly.

REPEL - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Apply EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 according to label instructions.

REPORT - in communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. Jackson County residents should call the health department to report sick or deceased crows, blue jays, robins or other perching birds. Officials will determine if the bird should be submitted to a lab for West Nile virus testing.

Additional information about West Nile virus can be found on the Jackson County Health Department’s web site at www.jchdonline.org, click on ‘West Nile virus’ on the ‘A-Z Topics’ tab, or call the Health Department at 618/684-3143, ext. 128 for more information.

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