



City of Oshkosh
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For Immediate Release: September 14, 2010

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Positive Test for West Nile Virus in Oshkosh

(Oshkosh, WI.) The city of Oshkosh Health Services Division would like to notify citizens that a dead crow found in the city of Oshkosh on August 30, 2010 has tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the first bird testing positive for West Nile virus in Winnebago County since surveillance for the mosquito-transmitted virus began on May 1st.

“The positive bird means that area residents need to be more vigilant in their personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites,” said Denise Krueger, Oshkosh Public Health Nurse.

West Nile Virus is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get the virus by feeding on infected birds.

“Area residents should be aware of West Nile virus and take some simple steps to protect themselves against mosquito bites,” said Krueger. “The West Nile virus seems to be here to stay, so the best way to avoid the disease is to reduce exposure to and eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes.”

The Oshkosh Health Services Division recommends the following:

- Maintain window screens in good repair to decrease indoor contact with mosquitoes
- Avoid being outside during times of high mosquito activity, specifically around dawn and dusk
- Wear light colored protective clothing such as long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and tuck pants in socks when outdoors
- When outdoors, consider using an effective mosquito repellent containing an active ingredient registered by the EPA, such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Do not provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes—remove containers, old tires and any objects where water can collect and mosquitoes can lay eggs

The majority of people (80%) who are infected with West Nile Virus do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, or rash. Less than 1% of people infected with the virus get seriously ill.

The city of Oshkosh and Winnebago County in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health will continue surveillance for West Nile virus until the end of the mosquito season. Once a West Nile virus positive bird is identified in the county, testing will be discontinued on a regular basis, but reports of sick or dead crows, blue jays, or ravens should still be reported. To report a sick or dead crow, blue jay, or raven, please call the Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 1-800-433-1610.

More information about West Nile virus is available on the Internet at:
[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/WestNileVirus/.](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/WestNileVirus/)

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