

CLARENDON BLACKHAWK MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE - June 11, 2007

The DuPage County Health Department is monitoring West Nile Virus (WNV) levels in the county through a network of gravid traps, including 2 traps within the Village. Adult mosquito samples collected in these traps are tested for the presence of WNV. Positive WNV samples have been collected from both traps within the Village. While this is not unexpected, occurrence at this point in time is earlier than anticipated. Warmer temperatures typically experienced in the weeks to come will amplify WNV levels where transmission to humans will be likely.

Mosquito annoyance from nuisance species mosquitoes has been minimal this year. Many people are under the false assumption that mosquitoes are not present, and are not taking precautionary measures to avoid mosquito bite exposure. However, residents are cautioned that the species of mosquito involved in disease transmission is a passive mosquito, and not an aggressive biter with its presence often undetected.

The Clarendon Blackhawk Mosquito Abatement District is in the midst of its annual battle against mosquito development within the Village. Potential mosquito breeding sources are inspected/treated regularly to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes. The District encourages residents to look for potential mosquito breeding sources around the home and take the following simple steps:

- 1) Throw away all trash that can hold water as cans, jars, bottles, etc.
- 2) Clean rain gutters/downspouts to prevent water from standing in gutters or on flat roofs.
- 3) Change water in bird baths, wading pools, etc. at least once a week.
- 4) Maintaining swimming pools properly.
- 5) Remove or turn over containers, buckets, etc. which may accumulate water.
- 6) Screen rain barrels to prevent adult mosquitoes from depositing eggs on the water's surface.
- 7) Aerate ornamental ponds and stock with goldfish or other surface feeding fish to control mosquito production.
- 8) Dispose of any used tires without rims to prevent water accumulation.

Finally, residents are encouraged to use a common sense approach in avoiding exposure to adult mosquitoes and any potential mosquito-borne diseases. Window screens should be inspected and repaired if damaged to prevent mosquitoes from entering the home. In addition, openings around window air conditioners, clothes dryer vents, etc. should be eliminated for the same reason. If possible, avoid outdoor activities around dusk. If not possible, wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose fitting, light colored clothing is best. Appropriate use of insect repellents per manufacturer's instructions is recommended.

For additional information on WNV, please consult the following links:

www.dupagehealth.org/ehs
www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm