

CLARENDON BLACKHAWK MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE - May 23, 2012

Positive West Nile Virus (WNV) samples have been recently collected from Clarendon Hills and nearby communities by the DuPage County Health Department. While this is not unexpected, occurrence at this point in time is earlier than anticipated. The mild winter has allowed a higher number of adult mosquitoes potentially infected with the disease to over-winter. Recent warm temperatures have increased mosquito activity and the start of the WNV amplification cycle. At this point in time, WNV presence is at low levels, however will likely escalate as the summer progresses.

The Clarendon Blackhawk Mosquito Abatement District has larval control programs in place to inspect/treat potential mosquito breeding sources to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes and minimize potential disease transmission. Contingency adult mosquito control measures will be utilized if WNV levels escalate and transmission to humans is likely.

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. When outdoors, minimize mosquito exposure by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks. Loose fitting, light colored clothing is encouraged. Finally, appropriate use of insect repellents per manufacturer's instructions is recommended.

The District encourages residents to also 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.

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

www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm