



LOGAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

109 Third Street, P.O. Box 508
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
Phone 217-735-2317
Fax 217-732-6943

Public Health
Prevent · Promote · Protect

Press Release

Contact: Ryan Williams
Phone: (217) 735-2317

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY DETECTED IN LOGAN COUNTY

The Logan County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) submitted a dead house finch on August 25th to the Illinois Department of Agriculture laboratory which tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The finch was collected in Lincoln, IL. West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by the WNV which is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.

Logan County is one of the latest counties to report WNV activity. To date in Illinois for 2015, approximately 49 counties have reported WNV activity which includes 3 human cases and no deaths. In 2014, a total of 44 human cases and 4 deaths were reported.

This is a reminder that even though summer is coming to an end, mosquitoes can remain active when temperatures are above 60 degrees F and activity will usually persist until the first hard frost. Because of the existing threat, the LCDPH would like to remind everyone the best way to prevent WNV disease is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to use personal protection. The department would like to urge you to practice the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

- Do **reduce** your exposure by avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn. Repair screens with tears or any other outer openings. Keep

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windows shut and eliminate areas of standing water around your property where mosquitoes can breed.

- Do **repel** mosquitoes from biting when outdoors by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt (light-colored clothing is preferred). Wear repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 and use according to the label instructions.
- Do **report** dead birds to the Logan County Department of Public Health. If the bird is dead less than 24 hours and has appeared to die of natural causes, it may be eligible for testing. Bird specimens will be accepted for testing until October 15th. In addition, contact the health department or your local municipality to report any stagnant water in roadside ditches, abandoned pools, flooded yards or similar locations that may provide breeding sites for mosquitoes.

If you are bitten by a mosquito, there is no reason to be tested for WNV since illnesses related to mosquito bites are rare. However, if you develop symptoms such as high fever, confusion, muscle weakness or severe headache, you should see your doctor.

Remember to play it safe and to continue to take preventative measures until mosquito activity fully ceases. If you would like more information regarding WNV, you can contact the Logan County Department of Public Health at 217-735-2317 or log onto their website at www.lcdph.org.

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