



North Morrow Vector Control District

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MORROW COUNTY



HEALTH DISTRICT

West Nile Virus Detected in rural Irrigon

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For Immediate Release:

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West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected on September 5, 2007 from a trap in south rural Irrigon, Oregon, Morrow County officials said today. Oregon State University Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis confirmed the positive mosquito pool, said Greg Barron, Manager of North Morrow Vector Control District.

Barron explained that North Morrow Vector Control District routinely sets up to 20 adult mosquito traps baited with dry ice twice a week in the Irrigon and Boardman areas. The mosquitoes caught are then counted, identified according to species, pooled into groups of 50 and sent onto the OSU Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis for testing.

The district also maintains six chicken flocks in the Irrigon and Boardman areas that act as "sentinels" for mosquito borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. We collect sera samples from the sentinel chickens every two weeks and send in the samples to the Oregon State Laboratory in Portland for testing. To date in 2007, 13 humans, 14 sentinel

chickens, 45 birds, 8 horses, 1 dog and 30 mosquito pools have tested positive to the virus throughout Oregon. 20 out of 36 counties in Oregon are now reporting infection either by human or animal with West Nile Virus in 2007.

Dead bird surveillance has been ongoing in the district. People that notice sick or dead birds such as Crows, Magpies, Jays and Robins should contact the vector control district so that they can be picked up for testing, Barron said.

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not become sick. Some may develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally swollen lymph glands or a rash. In rare cases West Nile may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. Individuals with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.

There have been no human, avian or equine cases of West Nile Virus reported in Morrow County this year. Last year the centers for Disease control and Prevention reported 73 confirmed human cases in Oregon as well as 996 human cases in Idaho.

The staff here at North Morrow Vector Control District will increase surveillance and control measures in the area of the positive mosquito pool.

“The risk of West Nile Virus is low but we do encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites” said Jennifer Jaca, of the Morrow County Health District. Jaca offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile Virus:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can be a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes such as watering troughs, birdbaths, clogged gutters and old tires.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and Picardin making sure to follow the directions on the container.
- Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.

Local officials and health care providers in Morrow County have been notified of the virus detection.

The State of Oregon has set up a West Nile Virus Hotline at 1(800) 702-INFO. Additional information on West Nile Virus is on the Web at:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

Oregon Department of Human Services
<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/w Nile/survey.shtml>

Morrow County Health District
<http://www.morrowcountyhealthdistrict.org/>

Morrow County
<http://morrowcountyoregon.com/>

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