

West Nile Virus in Peel Update July 9, 2003

This is a regular update on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel.

To report dead crows, standing water and suspected mosquito breeding sites, or for general information about West Nile Virus:

Call Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700.

Caledon residents call toll free at 905-584-2216.

Surveillance Update

As of July 4, 19 birds were reported as presumed or confirmed WNV-positive in Ontario. No WNV-positive birds have been found in the Region of Peel in 2003.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care reports dead crows in either a confirmed or a presumptive category for WNV. Dead crows submitted to testing undergo a screening test and if found positive for WNV they undergo a confirmatory testing procedure which rules out death due to other viruses. After 4 dead crows have tested positive for WNV in a Health Unit using both the screening test and the confirmatory test, all other submitted crows undergo only the screening test. These birds are reported as presumed positive.

There have been no additional reports across Ontario of positive mosquito pools beyond the one found in York Region on June 18, 2003. There have been no positive mosquito pools in the Region of Peel in 2003. In 2002, the first positive pool in the Region of Peel was found on June 20.

Recently, Health Canada authorized Canadian blood operators (Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec) to use a newly developed WNV screening test on donated blood. In 2002, it was determined that WNV could be transmitted through blood transfusion. Up to this point, Canadian Blood Services has withdrawn blood from donors suspected or shown to be infected with WNV. Also, Canadian Blood Services has been stockpiling blood components through the winter months, as it is a time considered low risk for WNV.

Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported that the first infected blood donation has been detected through the screening test. The donor was from Texas and showed no symptoms of WNV.

The first human case of WNV infection in North America for 2003 was reported July 7 in South Carolina.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF June 30 – July 6, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	3	0	2	1	61	7	27	27
Crows Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Prevention and Control Measures

The second round of larvicide application in Mississauga has been completed with the exception of areas where catch basin vacuuming is being conducted. Larviciding will continue this week in Brampton, north of Steeles Avenue and south of Queen Street between Goreway Drive and Creditview Road.

The Ministry of Environment has issued 11 permits to private property management and commercial property owners in Peel for the application of larvicide by a licensed pesticide applicator to a total of 4,162 catch basins. An additional 2 permits were provided to these applicants for the treatment of surface water such as storm water retention ponds and ditches on their property.

A number of surface water sites were referred for larvicide treatment last week: 16 in Mississauga, 4 in Brampton, and 3 in Caledon. The majority of these surface water sites are woodland pools or ditches.

A total of 2,000 standing water complaints have been registered by residents through Health Line Peel. Of these complaints, 1,124 public property complaints were accepted by the Region of Peel for investigation, and the remaining private property complaints were referred to the local municipalities. The Region of Peel has investigated and resolved 62% of the public property standing water complaints, and is in process of investigating the remainder.

Further information on West Nile Virus and the WNV Prevention and Control Plan in Peel can be found through:

- Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll-free at 905-584-2216
- www.peel-bugbite.ca
- Ministry of Ontario and Long Term Care Web Site www.health.gov.on.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McKeown". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a cursive "McKeown".

Dr. David McKeown,
Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel