

West Nile Virus in Peel Update October 15, 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

Peel

There were no new cases of West Nile Virus illness reported this week. The total number of human cases in Peel is 10 for 2003.

An 82 year-old man from Mississauga who was hospitalized last week remains in hospital. He is the first person to be diagnosed with West Nile neurological syndrome. WN neurological syndrome is a more severe form of WN infection and can cause serious disease that affects the brain. It is most often seen in older patients. He is the only WNV infected Peel resident to be in hospital.

There were five batches (pool) of WNV positive mosquitoes reported since the last update, making the total 24. There were three batches in Mississauga and two in Brampton. Two of the batches (one from Brampton and one from Mississauga) are actually from earlier in September but were misplaced by the testing laboratory at Brock University.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF Oct. 5 – Oct. 11 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	7	0	2	5	148	37	53	58
Crows Positive for WNV	1	0	0	1	8	2	2	4
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	5	2	0	3	24	8	0	16
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4

Ontario

In Ontario, there are currently 79 probable and confirmed cases of WNV infection in humans. The Health Units that have reported WNV infection in humans include; Brant (2), Chatham-Kent (1), Hamilton-Wentworth (4), Kingston (1), Middlesex-London (1), Niagara (5), Ottawa (3), Peel (10), Peterborough (1), Renfrew (1), Simcoe (1), Toronto (39), Waterloo (1), Windsor-Essex (8) and York (1).

To date, in 2003 no Ontario resident has died as a direct result of West Nile Virus infection.

Canada

According to Health Canada, the numbers of probable and confirmed cases of WNV in humans as of October 10 are: Alberta (248), Saskatchewan (690), Manitoba (132), Nova Scotia (1), Quebec (16), British Columbia (16) and the Yukon (1). Both Nova Scotia and British Columbia attribute their cases to travel outside of their respective provinces.

There have been eight deaths in total in Canada: six in Saskatchewan and two in Manitoba.

United States

As of October 10, 2003 the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to from 6,292 in last week's update to 6,657, including 139 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 45 states including Alabama (29), Arizona (1), Arkansas (11), California (1), Colorado (2,171), Connecticut (12), Delaware (13), District of Columbia (3), Florida (32), Georgia (23), Illinois (30), Indiana (17), Iowa (108), Kansas (71), Kentucky (10), Louisiana (84), Maryland (28), Massachusetts (12), Michigan (1), Minnesota (126), Mississippi (53), Missouri (43), Montana (207), Nebraska (1,108), Nevada (1), New Hampshire (2), New Jersey (19), New Mexico (190), New York (50), North Carolina (21), North Dakota (293), Ohio (76), Oklahoma (48), Pennsylvania (151), Rhode Island (3), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (863), Tennessee (8), Texas (391), Utah (1), Vermont (1), Virginia (12), West Virginia (1), Wisconsin (11) and Wyoming (320).

To date, the WNV cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control indicate that approximately 65 per cent are milder cases of West Nile Fever, 29 per cent are reported as West Nile meningitis or encephalitis and six per cent were clinically unspecified. As in Canada, the number of new cases is declining throughout the U.S.

Prevention and Control Measures

Mosquito season is almost over and the risk of WNV infection is low especially now that the weather is cooler during both the evening and day. The most recent human case of WNV was likely infected in mid-September. Nonetheless it is still possible to become ill because the incubation period for the virus varies from three to 15 days. Residents should be aware of the symptoms of WNV illnesses which include fever, extreme tiredness, headache, muscle aches and skin rash.

All larviciding in Peel, including the larviciding of surface water with the pesticide Bti was completed as of September 15.

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 Health and Long-Term Care web site www.health.gov.on.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McKeown', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel