

West Nile Virus in Peel Update September 4, 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

Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health for Peel is alerting the public to an increase in the risk of WNV infection. In Peel this past week, there has been an increase in the number of positive mosquito batches, and the first human case has been reported in a Malton resident.

Everyone is urged to use personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. If you are outdoors during the peak mosquito times of dusk to dawn, ensure that you use a mosquito repellent containing DEET or other approved active ingredient, and wear long-sleeved shirts, and a hat.

Surveillance Update

Peel

In this past week, the Region of Peel has had seven more batches (or pools) of WNV positive mosquitoes – one in Brampton and six in Mississauga. There are now 11 reported WNV positive mosquito batches in Peel.

In the past week, five dead crows were reported in Peel. As noted in last week's Weekly Update, Peel Health will only be reporting dead crow sightings from now on as the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) has discontinued testing birds for WNV in Ontario now that there is evidence of WNV activity in almost all parts of the province. Peel Health has also just received a report of a horse in Inglewood which became ill with West Nile Virus on July 17.

The first probable human case of WNV infection in Peel for 2003 has been reported in a woman in her 50's living in the Malton area. The illness began on August 24 and the individual was not hospitalized. Peel Health reminds everyone to be diligent with personal precautions against mosquito bites.

Ontario

In Ontario, there are currently 10 probable and one confirmed case of WNV infection in a person. The Health Units that have reported WNV infection in humans include; Hamilton-Wentworth (1), Middlesex-London (1), Ottawa (2), Peterborough (1), Renfrew (1), Toronto (3), Windsor-Essex (1) and York (1). The Renfrew and London cases are most likely related to travel in the United States.

Canada

According to statistics collected from the different provincial health ministry's Web sites, the numbers of probable and confirmed cases of WNV in humans are: Alberta (47), Saskatchewan (97), Manitoba (6), and Nova Scotia (1). The Nova Scotia case is most likely related to travel in the United States.

United States

As of September 3, 2003 the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to 1,856 from 1,355 in last week's update, including 37 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 34 states including Alabama (20), Arizona (1), Arkansas (5), Colorado (635), Connecticut (1), Florida (4), Georgia (5), Illinois (2), Iowa (15), Kansas (17), Kentucky (4), Louisiana (42), Maryland (2), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (17), Mississippi (30), Missouri (6), Montana (32), Nebraska (280), New Jersey (3), New Mexico (57), New York (6), North Carolina (2), North Dakota (28), Ohio (14), Oklahoma (18), Pennsylvania (38), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (250), Tennessee (5), Texas (146), Virginia (4), Wisconsin (1) and Wyoming (164).

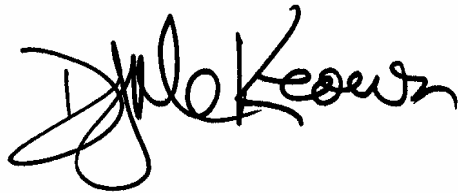
West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF August 24 – August 30, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	5	3	1	1	106	20	46	40
Crows Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	3
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	7	1	0	6	11	3	0	8
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

Prevention and Control Measures

All larviciding in roadside catch basins has been completed for the season. The larviciding of surface water with the pesticide Bti will continue on an as needed basis. Currently, a small number of storm water management ponds supporting larva are being treated.

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