

West Nile Virus in Peel Weekly Update September 22, 2005

This is a weekly update on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel.
Updates will continue until October.

To report dead crows or blue jays, stagnant 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
visit www.peel-bugbite.ca

Surveillance

Peel

Brampton reported its first human case of WNV infection this week. A 23-year-old resident was hospitalized for a few days and is now home recovering. This is the third case of human WNV infection in Peel; in August, two Mississauga residents tested positive for WNV infection.

Three out of four birds submitted for testing this week were found positive for WNV. Two are from Brampton and one is from Caledon.

Only one WNV positive batch of mosquitoes has been reported this week. It was located in Brampton in an area where positive mosquitoes have been previously found. Peel currently has a total of 24 positive mosquito batches – 16 in Mississauga, six in Brampton and two in Caledon. Overall the number of Culex species, the main vector of WNV, has decreased.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2005	September 11 to 17				YEAR TO DATE			
	Total	Bram	Caledon	Miss	Total	Bram	Caledon	Miss
Target Birds Reported	5	2	1	2	134	39	37	59
Target Birds Sent for Testing	4	2	1	1	67	17	19	31
Target Birds Positive for WNV	3	2	1	0	29	9	5	15
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	1	1	0	0	24	6	2	16
Confirmed Human Cases	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	2
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ontario

The total number of human cases of WNV infection in Ontario has increased from 54 to 70. The number of WNV-positive mosquito batches has increased from 253 to 274. In the regions surrounding Peel the greatest amount of activity has been in Toronto which has 138 while Windsor has 27 and Halton has 21. The number of WNV-positive birds has increased by from 277 to 289.

Canada

There are 127 cases of human WNV infection, up from 101. The majority of cases, 70, are in Ontario. Nova Scotia has one case (travel related), Quebec has three, Manitoba has 41, Saskatchewan has five and Alberta seven. There have been eight WNV-related deaths in Canada, one in Quebec, five in Ontario, one in Manitoba and one in Saskatchewan.

There are a total of 434 positive birds in Canada: Quebec has 113, Ontario has 289, Manitoba has 12, Saskatchewan has 14 and Alberta has six. There are a total of 658 positive mosquito pools in Canada: Quebec has 91, Ontario has 274, Manitoba has 193, Saskatchewan has 99 and Alberta has one.

United States

The number of cases of human WNV infection has increased to 1,299 from 821, and the majority of cases are still centred in California, with 548 cases. There have been a total of 29 WNV-related deaths in USA so far in 2005.

Prevention and Control Measures

Although it is getting cooler in the evenings, it is still important to protect against mosquito bites in September. Residents are reminded to use personal protection measures against mosquito bites. They include:

- Avoid areas with high mosquito populations
- Wear light-coloured clothing, including long sleeves, pants and a hat, to cover exposed skin
- Use a mosquito repellent and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Take extra precautions between dusk and dawn when mosquito activity is higher
- Drain any areas of standing or stagnant water on your property. Remove old tires, turn over pails, toys and wheelbarrows, and frequently change water in bird baths. Also, keep your eavestroughs clear to avoid trapped water.

Pestalto, the licensed pesticide applicator hired by Peel Health to apply larvicides to catch basins will continue larviciding stagnant surface water sites until the end of September.

Crane Flies

Peel Health has received several calls from residents reporting large mosquitoes. These insects are called Crane Flies. They look similar to mosquitoes but are approximately four times the size of the average mosquito; the body is about one inch in length. The life span of an adult Crane Fly is four to seven days. The Crane Fly larvae, also known as leatherjackets, damage lawns when they move from the soil to the surface. The adult Crane Flies are harmless to humans.



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Region of Peel