

West Nile Virus in Peel Weekly Update August 9, 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 and 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

Due to increased West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in Ontario, Peel Health is preparing a mail-out to all households in Peel. The mail-out contains a letter from the Associate Medical Officer of Health, information on WNV symptoms and information on personal protection from mosquito bites. The mail-out will be distributed starting on or near Wednesday, August 17.

Surveillance

Peel

Another bird has tested positive for WNV. The crow was found in the QEW and Southdown Road area. This is the third WNV-positive bird found in Mississauga this season.

Peel Health continues to receive report of dead bird sightings from Peel residents. The Environmental Duty Desk notifies all people who report dead birds about test results, both positive and negative. If the bird was not sent for testing due to poor condition of the carcass or other reasons, the person who reported the bird is not notified.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2005	WEEK OF July 31 – August 6				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Target Birds Reported	16	3	6	7	71	17	28	26
Target Birds Sent for Testing	9	2	2	5	39	8	15	16
Target Birds Positive for WNV	1	0	0	1	4	0	1	3
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	4
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ontario

WNV activity in Ontario continues to increase. There are a total of five human cases of WNV in Ontario, including one in Toronto reported last week. Toronto has a total of 20 WNV-positive mosquito batches and 15 WNV-positive birds. Halton has seven WNV-positive birds and one positive mosquito batch. There have been eight WNV-positive birds found in Thunder Bay. In Ontario, there are now a total of 29 WNV-positive mosquito batches and 71 WNV-positive birds.

Canada

There are now 104 WNV-positive birds in Canada, including 13 in Quebec and 12 in Manitoba. Manitoba has 50 WNV-positive mosquito batches.

United States

There has been a slight increase in the number of human cases in the Great Lakes states. New York has three new human cases, Illinois – two and Minnesota - one more since the last update.

Prevention and Control Measures

The third round of larviciding of catch basins and surface water continues. The larvicide is applied to catch basins through a special device used by the larviciding crew. The device simultaneously sprays a dot on the catch basin grate and also applies a predetermined amount of larvicide pellet. The whole process takes a few second to complete.

Both the contractor and Peel Health have quality assurance programs and regularly monitor the application of larvicides to ensure that all the catch basins are treated.

The contractor will begin using a new environmentally friendly larvicide – Vectolex WSP (water soluble pouch) – to treat catch basins leading to the environmentally sensitive areas. Previously in these areas, larvicides were applied using a larvasonic device, which was time-consuming and labour-intensive. The new larvicide will take a few seconds to apply and remain effective for 21 days compared to 48 hours for the previously used larvicide Bti.

The catch basin larviciding schedule is posted on the WNV Web site, www.peel-bugbite.ca and is updated regularly.



Dr. Howard Shapiro
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Region of Peel