

West Nile Virus in Peel Weekly Update July 28, 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

Surveillance

Peel

There are now four batches of positive WNV mosquitoes in Peel, up from two last week. Two more batches were reported this week, one in Malton and one in Brampton. Three birds were submitted for testing this past week from Mississauga and Caledon and all were found negative.

Canada

Toronto has reported two WNV positive birds found in the west end of the city. Halton Region has reported a WNV positive bird in Burlington this past week. There are now 24 WNV positive birds in Canada, Quebec now has three, Ontario has 15 and Manitoba has six. Manitoba also has 13 WNV positive mosquito batches and Ontario has four.

United States

There has been no increase in WNV activity in the Great Lake states. Cases of human WNV infection have increased from 25 to 41. The majority of cases are still found in the western and south-western states. There has been one WNV related death reported in Missouri.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2005	WEEK OF July 17 – July 23				YEAR TO DATE			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Target Birds Reported	7	3	2	2	44	13	18	13
Target Birds Sent for Testing	3	0	1	2	21	5	11	5
Target Birds Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	2	1	0	1	4	2	0	2
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

There are now four WNV positive mosquito batches in Peel. Whenever a new batch is identified representatives from Peel Public Health check the immediate area for breeding sites and treat them if necessary. They also ensure that catch basins have been larvicided. Representatives also go door-to-door to provide residents with information on personal protection and mosquito reduction. They also offer to inspect residents' property to identify breeding sites.

Past years have shown that human WNV infections that appear in August are often a result being bitten during July. Residents are reminded to take the following precautions against bites:

- 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 following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Take extra precautions at 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 birdbaths. Also, keep your eavestroughs clear to avoid trapped water.

Pestalto has started the third round of catch basin larviciding in Peel. Application began on July 25 in southern Mississauga. An orange dot on the catch basin indicates that the larvicide has been applied.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Shapiro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Howard Shapiro
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel