

West Nile Virus in Peel Weekly Update October 5, 2005

Final 2005 update on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel

This is the final in a series of weekly WNV updates for the Region of Peel. A program summary will be forwarded in two weeks. Peel Health expresses its thanks to all of the individuals and organizations who participated in the 2005 West Nile Virus Prevention Plan. A final detailed summary of West Nile Virus in Peel in 2005 will be presented to Regional Council at a later date.

Surveillance

Peel

There are no confirmed cases of human WNV infection this week. There have been three cases reported this season - Brampton reported one and Mississauga reported two. Peel Health will continue to collect data about human cases all year and data will continue to be posted on the www.peel-bugbite.ca.

Four birds were submitted for testing this week and one from Brampton was found positive for WNV. Birds are no longer being collected or tested as of September 30.

There were no WNV positive batches of mosquitoes reported this week. There have been fewer mosquitoes found in all the traps. Mosquitoes are no longer being collected or tested as of September 30.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2005	September 25 to October 1				YEAR TO DATE			
	Total	Bram	Caledon	Miss	Total	Bram	Caledon	Miss
Target Birds Reported	12	1	4	7	154	41	41	72
Target Birds Sent for Testing	4	1	2	1	80	19	23	38
Target Birds Positive for WNV	1	1	0	0	33	10	5	18
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	24	6	2	16
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	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 82 to 87. The majority of cases are in Toronto with 36. In the other regions surrounding Peel there have been five cases in York, four in Halton, and none in Wellington-Simcoe.

The number of WNV-positive birds has increased from 289 to 298. Overall, numbers have been diminishing across Ontario.

Canada

There are 150 cases of human WNV infection, up from 145. The majority of cases have been reported in Ontario. Manitoba has the second most at 48. To date there have been nine deaths attributed to WNV infection - one in Quebec, five in Ontario, two in Manitoba and one in Saskatchewan.

There were only three WNV positive birds reported this past week bringing the national total to 445. This is partially because it is towards the end of WNV season but also because the testing centre is accepting fewer birds for testing. The number of WNV positive mosquito batches has increased from 675 to 695.

United States

The number of cases of human WNV infection has increased to 2,016 from 1,804. There have been a total of 55 WNV-related deaths in the U.S. this year. Every state except West Virginia has reported WNV activity in mosquitoes, birds or humans. California has had the greatest number of human cases with 742, followed by South Dakota with 221 and Illinois with 196. WNV activity and infection is normally seen late into the fall in the U.S. because of the geographic diversity.

Prevention and Control Measures

The warmer weather lately means that mosquitoes are still present. It is important to continue protecting yourself and your family against mosquito bites until the first hard frost.

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.



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