

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2009



Contact:

Debbie George

757-514-4106

757-374-1770

Suffolk Public Works – Division of Mosquito Control Receives Confirmation of Positive West Nile Virus Tests

SUFFOLK, Va. (August 12, 2009) The City of Suffolk confirms positive tests for West Nile Virus in mosquitoes. Mosquito collections in the areas of Lake Kennedy, Lloyd Street, and North Street have tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). Mosquito testing is used to determine periods of increased risk of contracting West Nile Virus. "Citizens should know that West Nile Virus activity is present in Downtown Suffolk and everyone should protect themselves while engaging in outdoor activities" advised Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Mosquito Control. WNV is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause mild-flu like illness to severe illness. No human cases of WNV have been reported in the City of Suffolk.

Mosquito Control operations are intensifying their efforts in these areas as a result of the WNV positive test confirmations. Increased mosquito surveillance, treatment of standing water, and evening spray applications for adult mosquitoes are being administered.

You can greatly decrease your chances of contracting WNV by protecting yourself from excessive mosquito bites while outdoors by following these recommendations:

- Remain indoors during times of greatest mosquito activity
 - (1 hour before dusk to 1 hour before dawn)
- Wear loose, long, and light-colored clothing when outdoors
- Use insect repellants containing DEET according to the label instructions.

You can contribute by eliminating mosquito-breeding areas around your home and neighborhood by following these steps:

- Empty water-holding containers:
 - buckets, drums, bottles, tin cans, wheel barrows, potted plant trays, etc.
- Properly dispose used tires.
- Clear roof gutters, downspouts and corrugated black drainpipes for any water collection.
- Clean wading and swimming pools
- Drain water from tarps
- Place Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water areas around your home which include ditches and low lying areas

Placing Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water habitats is a common practice used to eliminate mosquito larvae. Free Mosquito Dunks are available to Suffolk citizens at your local fire station. In order to get your free Mosquito Dunks you must be 18 years of age or older, have proof of residence in the City of Suffolk, proper picture identification and sign the “Information Sheet” at the fire station.

For more information concerning West Nile Virus refer to the following links to Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/DEE/Vectorborne/factsheets/westnilevirus.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

For more information about Suffolk Mosquito Control call:

Charles Abadam
Superintendent of Suffolk Mosquito Control
757.514.7609