



Jackson County Health Department

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For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Guidance for Jackson County

September 28, 2021 - The Jackson County Health Department has been notified by the State laboratory that one bird from Jackson County has tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). **To date, no human cases have been reported in Jackson County.** Across the state, 28 positive human cases of WNV have been reported. This is Jackson County's first positive for West Nile Virus from any source in 2021.

"This recent laboratory confirmation of West Nile Virus serves as an indicator that the virus is active in the birds and mosquitoes in Jackson County," states Don Hayduk, Environmental Health Division Director. "Since we have yet to have a hard frost and temperatures are still warm, mosquito activity is still occurring and the risk of contracting WNV still exists."

The Jackson County Health Department continues to encourage all residents to follow the recommendations listed below to reduce exposure risk to West Nile Virus and other Arboviruses spread by mosquitos:

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin when you go outdoors. The most effective repellents contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide).
- Use caution when applying repellent to children under 12 years of age. Read and follow directions indicated on the product label.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET, because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Consider staying indoors between dusk and dawn, which is peak mosquito biting time. Avoid activities in areas where mosquitoes are plentiful.
- Fix or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.
- Eliminate standing water in your yard. Empty water from mosquito breeding sites, such as flower pots, pet bowls, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and similar items in which mosquitoes can lay eggs.

For more information regarding the West Nile Virus, visit us on line at:

<https://www.mijackson.org/DocumentCenter/View/376/West-Nile-Virus-PDF>

Additional statewide Arbovirus activity information can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/Weekly_Arbovirus_Summary_698895_7.pdf