



Clayton County Board of Health
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Health Officials Confirm Presence of West Nile Virus

Board of Health Urges Residents to Use Prevention Measures

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011

JONESBORO, Ga. – The Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH) reports that mosquitoes collected at a monitoring site in a central part of the county have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The Board of Health urges residents to protect themselves from mosquitoes and remove any standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.

“The discovery of West Nile Virus is not uncommon this time of year,” said Clayton County District Health Director Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan. “Our continued heat is allowing mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus to thrive. It is very important that people not forget the dangers of West Nile Virus and take steps to protect themselves.”

The CCBOH urges residents to remove water from standing containers – where mosquitoes thrive – and to observe the “**Five D’s of WNV Prevention.**”

- Dusk** - Mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus usually bite at dusk and dawn.
- Dawn** - Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn if possible. If you must be outside, be sure to protect yourself from bites.
- Dress** - Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants to reduce the amount of exposed skin.
- DEET** - Cover exposed skin with an insect repellent containing the chemical DEET, which is the most effective repellent against mosquito bites.
- Drain** - Empty any containers holding standing water because they can be excellent breeding grounds for virus-carrying mosquitoes.

Symptoms of WNV include headache, fever, neck discomfort, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes and a rash that usually develop three to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. The elderly, those with compromised immune systems, or those with other underlying conditions are at greater risk for complications from the disease.

Of those who become infected with WNV, most will fight off the virus without any symptoms or will develop less severe West Nile fever. But about one in 150 people bitten by infected mosquitoes will develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord). Approximately 10 percent of people with a severe form of WNV infection die from their illness, and others suffer from long-term nervous system problems.

www.claytoncountypublichealth.org

P R E V E N T P R O M O T E P R O T E C T

People with questions about WNV should contact **CCBOH Environmental Health Specialist Eli Jones** at **(678) 610-7429** or **ejones2@dhr.state.ga.us**.

Additional WNV resources can be found at:

<http://www.claytoncountypublichealth.org/>

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

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm

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