



**McHenry County
Department of Health**

2200 N. Seminary Avenue, Woodstock IL 60098

Phone 815-334-4510 Fax 815-334-4635

www.mcdh.info

www.twitter.com/mchenrycohealth

www.facebook.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2010

Contact: Debra Quackenbush

815-334-4456; cell 815-236-3238

Bird tests positive for West Nile virus

WOODSTOCK IL – McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) reports a crow collected in Algonquin on September 14th is the first bird testing positive for West Nile virus (WNV) since 2008. Residents should call MCDH to have a bird submitted for testing. McHenry County reported its first human case for West Nile just 3 day earlier on September 14, with its last human case reported in 2007.

The County had its first case of WNV in 2001. West Nile is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. The risk for WNV remains until the first frost. Residents can reduce their risk of becoming infected by following these guidelines:

- Wear shoes, socks, long-sleeved shirts & pants when outdoors for long periods of time
- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active (dawn and dusk).
- Spray clothing with repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. Follow label directions.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water around your home where mosquitoes will breed
(bird baths, garbage cans, wheelbarrows, clogged gutters, flower pot trays)
- Make sure doors and windows have tight fitting screens to keep mosquitoes outside

For additional information about West Nile virus, visit us on the web at www.mcdh.info or call MCDH's Environmental Health Division at 815-334-4585.

###

“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”