Greene County Health Department

310 Fifth Street • Carrollton, IL 62016 • (217) 942-6961 • Fax: (217) 942-3904

Daniel Woodlock, D.D.S. BOARD OF HEALTH PRESIDENT

Molly Peters, B.S., L.E.H.P. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEAD BIRD SURVEILLANCE AND TESTING FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

The Greene County Health Department is seeking the public's assistance in obtaining dead birds to submit to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to test for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV). Please contact the Department at 217-942-6961, Ext.102, and the staff will retrieve species of "perching birds" (Passeriformes) in addition to crows, blue jays, robins, cardinals, catbirds, mockingbirds, many species of sparrows, finches, flycatchers, swallows, warblers, wrens and small or medium size hawks or owls for submission to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for testing.

Vector Control/Arbovirus Surveillance from IDPH indicates that WNV arrived in Illinois at the end of the summer of 2001. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that counties with a WNV-positive bird before August 1 were twice as likely to have a human case than those who recorded a WNV-positive bird after August 1. Therefore, the dead birds will be accepted for testing beginning May 15, 2022 - October 15, 2022.

It is the department's goal is to detect any early season WNV activity promoted by weather conditions this spring. As the summer become drier, we will see an increase of Culex pipiens (the common house mosquito) population which is the disease transmitter of the West Nile Virus.

The Department is asking the community to be aware of any birds that:

- have been dead for **less than** 48 hours
- died singly (birds dying from WNV are usually found singly, scattered over a wide area versus birds that die from other causes-storm mortality, food poisoning, toxicants - usually die in groups or clusters in a small area)
- **NOT** decomposed (strong odor present, dried/deflated eyes, maggots present or bloated with decomposition gases or damaged by scavenging animals
- No obvious cause of death, i.e., crushed, shot or killed by a motor vehicle

Dead birds that do not meet the requirements should be properly disposed of by an adult by burying or double wrapping in plastic bags and disposing properly without touching the carcass. Wash hands upon completion.

If the dead bird meets the conditions for testing or if you have any questions, please contact the Greene County Health Department.

Prevention measures to decrease the mosquito population include **eliminating** all ponding or pooling of stagnant water (including containers of stagnant water and water high in organic matter such as sewage effluent) i.e., roof guttering and **change** any collectors of water (such as bird baths, pets' water bowls, yard toys, potted plant containers or kiddy pools) at least weekly. The growth stage of the mosquito is 10 days from an egg to an adult. The Department upon request is able to larvicide areas that cannot be eliminated by drainage or any source area where mosquitoes are known to be of a nuisance. Please call the Health Department, 217-942-6961 Ext. 102, if you know of any areas as described above.

Greene County Health Department

310 Fifth Street • Carrollton, IL 62016 • (217) 942-6961 • Fax: (217) 942-3904

Daniel Woodlock, D.D.S. BOARD OF HEALTH PRESIDENT

Molly Peters, B.S., L.E.H.P. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR

Resources:

Vector Control Program: https://greenecountyhd.org/environmental-health/vector-control-program/
Mosquitoes: https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/index.html
IDPH Dead Bird Collection: https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/dead-bird-collection.html#:~:text=Any%20dead%20bird%20that%20is,don't%20puncture%20the%20bag.
West Nile Virus: http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus