



Second Positive Report of West Nile Virus COMMUNITY ADVISORY

The Director of Health Services would like to offer this Community advisory. The Six Nations of the Grand River is reporting that a crow collected in our community has tested **positive** for West Nile Virus.

The Community Health Representatives began the West Nile Virus surveillance program the week of June 23, 2008, we have not found any evidence of **mosquitoes** carrying West Nile Virus in the Six Nations territory. Brant County Health Unit has reported positive mosquitoes this summer. There have been no reports of human cases of West Nile Virus. The Community Health Representatives will continue to conduct mosquito surveillance until the end of September 2008.

As a reminder:

West Nile Virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms can include: very severe headache, high fever, sore neck, nausea and vomiting, muscle weakness and blurred vision. Anyone can get sick from West Nile Virus but the risk of serious illness increases with age and people with health problems (immune compromised).

Avoiding mosquito bites can greatly reduce your chances of becoming infected with West Nile Virus.

- To avoid bites:**
- Use mosquito repellent that contains DEET (30% or less for adults, 10% of less for children) or other approved ingredients, carefully following the label instructions.
 - Wear light-coloured, long sleeved shirts and pants when you are outside and mosquitoes are biting.
 - Avoid areas where there are a lot of mosquitoes, especially at dawn and dusk as this is when mosquitoes are most active.
 - Keep the screens on windows and doors in good repair.

You can also protect yourself, your family, and your community from West Nile Virus and other illnesses carried by mosquitoes by helping to reduce standing water:

- Store larger outdoor items like canoes, wheelbarrows and wading pools upside down.
- Get rid of standing water around your house by emptying water from old tires, flower pots, rain barrel lids, toys and other outdoor objects.
- Replace water in outdoor pet dishes and other containers at least twice a week.
- Encourage your neighbours to clean up too.

To report a dead bird or information on West Nile Virus surveillance program you can call the New Directions Group at (519) 445-2947. If you have health related concerns regarding West Nile Virus you can contact the Six Nations Public Health Office at (519) 445-2672.