

Health & Family Services Centre
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WshkiiGoomaang MnoBmaadziwin Gamig

September 29, 2017

**Re: Curve Lake First Nation 2017 West Nile Virus Surveillance Program,
Dead Bird Surveillance Results**

Please be advised that a crow that was collected in our community on September 1, 2017 has tested **positive** for West Nile Virus. Many Health Units in Southern Ontario have reported West Nile Virus activity in mosquitos, birds and humans.

The West Nile Surveillance program includes weekly trapping and testing of mosquitos as well as Dead Bird Surveillance (crow or blue jay). These programs will continue to run into the fall months. To-date, we **have not** had a positive test in submitted **mosquitos**.

Although the risk of becoming infected is low, prevention against bites is the best protection. Individuals can protect themselves from bites in several ways:

- Cover up when going outside between the hours of dusk and dawn. Remember to wear:
 - a long-sleeved shirt or jacket and long pants (tucked into your socks for extra protection)
 - light-coloured clothing
- Clean up:
 - once a week, get rid of standing water around your home in places such as bird baths, eaves troughs, wheelbarrows and flower pots etc. (mosquitos lay their eggs in stagnant water, even small amounts)
 - keep bushes and shrubs clear of overgrowth and debris (adult mosquitos like to rest in dense shrubbery)
 - turn your compost pile often
- Use insect repellent containing DEET. (DEET is a powerful chemical. Read the label carefully and apply as directed. You can also ask your pharmacist for help when choosing a DEET product.)

Should you happen to find a dead bird or would like more information on West Nile virus and how to protect yourself from mosquito bites please do not hesitate to contact myself at the Health Centre.

Sincerely,

Steve Toms
Community Health Representative