



Public Health

ADVISORY

SUBJECT: West Nile Virus Program 2009
Date issued: May 19, 2009 **Pages:** 2
To: Public Works/Operations
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health (A) and CEO

West Nile virus (WNV) was confirmed in both the bird and mosquito population by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health in 2001-2002. Programs to reduce the mosquito population in the area began in 2003. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has classified the Wellington, Dufferin, Guelph region as Tier 2--Moderate Risk/Activity for WNV.

Dead bird surveillance

WDG Public Health will continue dead bird surveillance and collection for 2009. A large number of dead birds are an indication that West Nile virus may be active in that area. Dead crow and blue jay sightings can be reported to Public Health on the dead bird hotline--**1-800-265-7293 ext. 4617**. Health inspectors will collect birds that can be tested. If a bird can't be collected, an inspector will tell you how to safely dispose of it. Bird identification: http://wildlife1.usask.ca/en/west_nile_virus/bird_pictures.php

Mosquito surveillance

Regular trapping helps to monitor WNV risk. Trapping begins in June for 15 consecutive weeks. The traps are set weekly to capture mosquitoes for laboratory testing. The lab identifies if the mosquitoes are *Culex pipiens*—the species that most often carries WNV—and keeps a count for data analysis. Mosquito trap data is sent to the MOHLTC to help with province-wide surveillance efforts and population risk assessment.

Larviciding

This year we will larvicide standing water and catch basins in the following high risk areas—Guelph, Orangeville, Erin, Rockwood and Morrison. These areas have been identified by climate maps and past MOHLTC data as high risk areas for the spread of WNV. Areas that are identified as being low risk for WNV activity will not be larvicided.

Larviciding - Standing Water

Standing water sites are treated with a biological larvicide if monitoring identifies large numbers of *Culex pipiens* mosquito larvae. The Ministry of Environment site guidelines include ditches, sewage and sludge lagoons, storm water retention ponds, field pool, and wetlands within two km of high risk areas.

Larviciding – Municipal Catch Basins

Catch basins are a significant breeding site for *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes. Treating catch basins prevents larvae from maturing into adult mosquitoes. Catch basins within high risk areas will be larvicided three times during the summer. Municipal catch basins use 21-day methoprene pellets. Park catch basins and areas that are difficult to access are treated with a 120-day methoprene briquette. Dry catch basins are not treated. Basins are colour-coded as indicated below:

Blue -first treatment

White - second treatment

Orange - third treatment

Guelph, Orangeville, Erin, Rockwood and Morrison should coordinate their catch basin clean-out schedules with Public Health's larviciding program.

Pestalto Environmental Health Services is our service provider for catch basin/standing water larviciding, and monitoring/adult mosquito trap collection and maintenance. www.pestalto.com

Other services available for the control of West Nile virus:

Standing water complaints - WDGPH staff will investigate standing water complaints, including swimming pools and ponds, on private property.

Residential backyard catch basins - Local residents can have their backyard catch basin larvicided for free by contacting WDG Public Health at **1-800-265-7293 ext. 2673**

For more information, refer to contact or website:

Name/Title: Cam Clark, Program Manager Health Protection

Contact: 519.846.2715 or 1.800.265.7293 ext. 5610/ www.wdghu.org