



## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATION

FROM BOROUGH OF ROCKAWAY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

West Nile Virus  
News Release  
August 12, 2013

During their routine mosquito testing program, the Morris County Mosquito Commission found a positive West Nile Virus result in Donatoni Park on August 1st. The Morris County Mosquito Commission treated the Park and the immediate vicinity; woods, the path and access road on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The resmethryn based product used is called Scourage, an effective but safe material of choice for this type of application. This would indicate that West Nile is again present in our area and we must continue to take precautions. Since West Nile Virus is transmitted primarily by the bite of an infected mosquito, residents are advised to continue to take precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bites by:

- Eliminate standing water in flowerpots, buckets/barrels, tires, pools, roof gutters and playground equipment, etc. If you wish to save rainwater to use in your garden it should be used within one week. If you use rain barrels to collect rainwater they should be Mosquito-proof. Information on mosquito-proof rain barrels can be found at [http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater\\_Management/rainbarrels.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html). Birdbaths should be emptied and refilled weekly. Mosquitoes that breed around the home are primarily responsible for transmitting West Nile Virus to humans!
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors.
- Spray insect repellent on clothing and exposed skin in accordance with labeling instructions.
- Repair window and door screens.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dawn, dusk and during the evening hours.

At the current time we are not aware of any human cases of West Nile virus in New Jersey. West Nile virus infection generally causes no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms. About one in 150 people infected with WNV, or less than one percent, will develop a more severe form of the disease. Symptoms of the more severe disease can include severe headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. The elderly are at higher risk of more severe disease. For more information visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsMaps/preliminaryMapsData/activitystatedate.html>

The West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of an infective mosquito that has picked up the virus while feeding on an infected bird. In a very small number of cases, West Nile Virus also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby. There is no evidence that would indicate that West Nile virus is transmitted directly from infected bird to humans. West Nile Virus can also seriously affect horses. Please contact your local veterinarian or visit: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/westnile.html> for more information on West Nile Virus's effect on horses.

Local mosquito commissions are working hard with local health departments to monitor and control the spread of West Nile virus in the mosquito population. Local Health Departments in the area will continue to participate in the State-Wide West Nile Virus Surveillance program by collecting dead corvids (including crows and blue-jays), raptors (hawks) and thrushes (robins). Residents should contact their local health department to report dead crows, blue-jays, hawks and robins. Dead birds in fresh condition will be picked up and sent to the state laboratories.

Morris County residents may report mosquito problems and standing water to the Morris County Mosquito Commission at (973) 285-6450 or visiting the website: <http://www.morrismosquito.org> . The Morris County Mosquito Commission website also provides up-to-date information on where and when mosquito spraying will be occurring.

For further information contact your local health department or Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>.

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**To contact the Health Department:**

**Borough of Rockaway Health Department**

c/o **[Township of Randolph Health Department](#)**

**502 Millbrook Ave.**

**Randolph, NJ 07869**

**Main Number: 973-989-7050**

**Animal Control: 973-989-7090**

**Fax: 973-989-7076**