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TO: DeKalb County News Media
FROM: DeKalb County Health Department, IL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Positive Mosquito Batches Reported by DeKalb County Health Department

The DeKalb County Health Department is reporting that additional mosquito batches collected from surveillance traps in the cities of DeKalb and Sycamore have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). At this time, no human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in DeKalb County this year.

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected after feeding on infected birds. While the virus is present in the area, it is important to remember that not all mosquitoes or birds carry West Nile virus.

Most people with the virus have no clinical symptoms of illness, but some may become ill three to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Illness from West Nile is usually mild and includes fever, headache and body aches, but serious illness, such as encephalitis and meningitis have been known to develop. Persons older than 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease.

The best way to protect yourself and your family from WNV is to reduce exposure to mosquito bites by following these prevention tips:

- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active, particularly between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long sleeves, long pants, shoes, and socks whenever possible.
- Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to the product label. Consult your child's healthcare provider before using insect repellents on infants.
- Ensure that doors and windows are fitted with tight-fitting screens, and repair or replace any screens with holes or tears to help keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Eliminate standing water around your property where mosquitoes can breed. Empty or turn over containers that collect water, including buckets, flowerpots, toys, and garbage cans. Change the water in birdbaths at least once a week, properly maintain wading pools, and stock ornamental ponds with fish when appropriate.

The DCHD will continue mosquito surveillance throughout the season and encourages residents to take preventive measures to reduce their risk of mosquito-borne illness.

For additional information, check the DeKalb County Health Department website at <https://health.dekalbcounty.org/services/nuisance-complaints/>. To learn more about the many programs and services of the Health Department, visit <http://health.dekalbcounty.org/> or follow us on social media.

