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For Immediate Release

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First Confirmed Case of West Nile Virus in Waukesha County

Waukesha, Wis. - Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use - Division of Environmental Health has been notified from the Wisconsin Division of Health that one crow has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). These results are the first confirmation of a WNV positive bird found in Waukesha County in 2013, since surveillance for the mosquito-transmitted virus began May 1. The crow was found in August, in the Town of Lisbon.

The positive result means that residents of Waukesha County need to be more vigilant in their personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites.

West Nile Virus is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get the virus by feeding on infected birds.

Waukesha County residents should be aware of WNV and take some simple steps to protect themselves against mosquito bites. The best way to avoid the WNV disease is to reduce exposure to and eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes.”

The Waukesha County Health and Human Services Department recommends the following:

- Maintain window screens in good repair to decrease indoor contact with mosquitoes
- Avoid being outside during times of high mosquito activity, specifically around dawn and dusk
- Wear light colored protective clothing such as long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and tuck pants in socks when outdoors
- When outdoors, consider using an effective mosquito repellent containing an active ingredient registered by the EPA, such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Do not provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes—remove containers, old tires and any objects where water can collect and mosquitoes can lay eggs.

The majority of people (80%) who are infected with WNV do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, or rash. Less than 1% of people infected with the virus get seriously ill.

(more)

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For more information, you can visit the United States Geological Survey website at:
http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_wi_human.html

Waukesha County, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, will continue surveillance for WNV until the end of the mosquito season. Now that WNV positive birds have been identified in the County, testing will be discontinued, but reports of sick or dead crows, blue jays, or ravens should still be reported. To report a sick or dead crow, blue jay, or raven, please call the Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 1-800-433-1610.

More information about West Nile virus is available on the Internet
at:<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/ArboviralDiseases/WestNileVirus/Index.htm>

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