

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, August 23, 2024

CONTACT: Jana Snider, Public Health Nurse, jsnider@mijackson.org

Public Health Notice: West Nile Virus Detected in Jackson County

JACKSON COUNTY, MI - As of August 23rd, 2024, the Jackson County Health Department has confirmed that two birds in the county tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). **Fortunately, no human cases have been confirmed in Jackson County at this time**, though there have been four human cases of West Nile virus or other arboviruses reported statewide in 2024. Mosquito pools are routinely monitored by the Jackson County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for WNV and other arboviruses.

Arboviruses are viruses transmitted by mosquitoes and other insects. Alongside West Nile Virus, Michigan has detected other arboviruses this summer, including Jamestown Canyon Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

West Nile Virus Symptoms:

Most people infected with West Nile Virus do not experience symptoms. However, about 1 in 5 may develop mild symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Skin rash (occasionally)

In rare cases, severe symptoms can occur, including:

- High fever
- Severe headache
- Neck stiffness
- Disorientation or confusion
- Muscle weakness
- Tremors or seizures
- Vision loss

If you experience any of these severe symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

Prevention Tips:

Mosquito Control

- Use screens on windows and doors; repair any holes.
- Weekly, eliminate standing water around your home where mosquitoes can breed.
- Discard old tires, cans, and containers.
- Repair failed septic systems.
- Drill holes in recycling containers left outdoors.
- Keep grass short and shrubbery trimmed.
- Clean roof gutters regularly.
- Replace water in pet bowls frequently.
- Maintain ornamental fountains and birdbaths by flushing or aerating.

Use Insect Repellent

- Choose EPA-registered insect repellents containing:
 - DEET
 - Picaridin
 - IR3535
 - Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD
 - 2-Undecanone
- These repellents are safe for use, even during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Find the right repellent using the EPA's search tool: [EPA Insect Repellent Search](#)

Stay Informed:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides weekly updates on arbovirus activity, available here: [MDHHS Arbovirus Trends](#)

[CDC West Nile Virus Home Page](#)

###