

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: September 20, 2018
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

“Additional Bird Tests Positive for West Nile virus”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that a blue jay from Marseilles tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was collected and tested on September 19, 2018.

Environmental Health staff was able to conduct the confirmatory test on the birds at the Health Department.

To date, the following West Nile virus activity in birds and mosquitoes has been documented for 2018:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date Collected</u>	<u>Animal/Insect</u>
LASALLE	07/24/2018	CROW
OTTAWA	07/27/2018	MOSQUITOES
STREATOR	07/31/2018	CROW
OTTAWA	8/31/2018	CROW
PERU	9/4/2018	CROW
MARSEILLES	9/19/2018	BLUE JAY

Additionally, the first human case of West Nile virus was reported in late August. West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. However, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and immunocompromised individuals are

at higher risk for severe illness.

Remember to take some simple precautions to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and protect yourself from being bitten.

- Minimize being outdoors when mosquitoes transmitting West Nile virus are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, such as old tires, buckets and other receptacles, or refresh the water in bird baths, flowerpots and wading pools every couple days.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's

web site at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>.

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