



*Healthy People... Healthy Communities*

**KANKAKEE COUNTY**

**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

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Date: July 31, 2017

Contact: Keith Wojnowski (815) 802-9414

For Release: Immediately

Subject: First Human Case of West Nile Virus

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## **FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN COUNTY**

### **Public Urged to Follow Prevention Measures!**

The Kankakee County Health Department reports that the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Kankakee County in 2017 is a male in his 50s from Bradley.

The Health Department reminds County Residents that WNV activity is widespread in the area so the risk of WNV is strong and may remain so for many months; therefore, residents should concentrate on personal protection. Residents are urged to take necessary precautions while outdoors, but not to restrict their outdoor activities.

WNV is transmitted to people by infected mosquitoes. The best way to prevent WNV is to avoid mosquito bites:

- Use insect repellents when you are outdoors
- Wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning, if you have it
- Empty any standing water from items outside your home such as flowerpots, buckets, kiddie pools, and pet water dishes.

Approximately one in five people who are infected with WNV will develop symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Less than one percent will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). People over 50 years of age and those with certain medical

conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and organ transports are at greater risk for serious illness.

There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent WNV infection. People with more mild illnesses typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for several weeks. In more severe cases, patients often need to be hospitalized to receive supportive treatment, such as intravenous (IV) fluids, pain medication, and nursing care. Anyone who has symptoms that cause concern should contact a health care provider.

Additional information about WNV can be found on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus>. Surveillance numbers are updated every other Wednesday by 12:00 PM at <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>

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