

## CLARK COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

With West Nile Virus season upon us in Central Illinois, and the first bird of the season testing positive in Douglas County, the Clark County Health Department is conducting several monitoring and prevention activities within Clark County to attempt to combat the spread of this disease. The Clark County Health Department is asking the help of the public in identifying any dead birds that may be eligible to be submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Health for West Nile Virus testing. If anyone notices a bird that appears to have died of natural causes and that has been dead less than 24 hours, you are urged to contact the Clark County Health Department at 217-382-4207, at which point a member of the Health Department will promptly come collect the dead bird. Also, the Clark County Health Department will have several mosquito traps set out throughout the community in order to monitor random batch mosquito populations. If you see these traps, you are urged to leave them alone as they may be filled with mosquitoes that are capable of spreading disease. The Clark County Health Department also encourages the public to remember and practice the 3 R's:

**1. REDUCE** exposure - avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.

-Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.

-Eliminate all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles.

**2. REPEL** - 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.

**3. REPORT** – report dead birds to your local health department. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government about areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

Additional information about West Nile virus can be found by logging onto [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm).