

July 29, 2004

## **Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus**

Toronto Public Health today reported that mosquitoes found in the City have tested positive for West Nile Virus. These are the first positive mosquito results this year.

Mosquito traps are set in 43 locations across Toronto. The positive mosquitoes were found at Black Creek Drive and Eglinton Avenue West, and surveillance for the virus will be increased in this area.

Four birds have tested positive for the virus, and no human cases have been reported this summer.

“We have confirmation the virus is present in both birds and mosquitoes, and we are asking the public to take precautions,” said Danny Kartzalis, Manager of the West Nile Virus program for Toronto Public Health.

The following personal protection measures are recommended:

- Use insect repellent containing 10% DEET or less
- Wear light colour clothing and cover up whenever possible
- Take precautions outdoors, especially in early morning and early evening, when mosquitoes are most active
- Remove standing water around your home

The overall risk of becoming infected with WNV is low and most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not get sick. Some people are at higher risk, especially those over 55 years of age and persons with compromised immune systems due to illnesses such as cancer, diabetes or heart disease.

For more information visit the web site or call 416-338-7600.

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