



**For immediate release
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**Media Contact: Raquel Madrid
414-286-3175 Office
414-603-3147 Pager**

FIRST BIRD IDENTIFIED IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY WITH WEST NILE VIRUS

The Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has identified the first bird in Milwaukee County that has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This finding represents one of 28 birds in the state of Wisconsin that has tested positive for the disease this season.

The finding of WNV in a single bird within Milwaukee County does not represent an imminent health risk to the community but does confirm the continuing presence of this virus which is transmitted from bird to mosquito and ultimately to human and other animal hosts through the bite from an infected mosquito.

The MHD is coordinating a number of activities within Milwaukee County in response to WNV infection prevention and control. These include surveillance, public awareness and mosquito control measures. While overall, the risk of serious WNV human infection is low, personal preventative measures are recommended especially for the most susceptible persons in the community, primarily the elderly, young children and persons with underlying medical and chronic health conditions. These include:

- Avoid outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes tend to be most active.
- Wear light colored long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET when outdoors.
- Ensure that screens, windows and doors are in good repair to prevent entry of mosquitoes.
- Eliminate stagnant water around the home that may serve as mosquito-breeding places including water in birdbaths, wading pools, clogged rain gutters, old tires and buckets.