

Media Inquiries:

(630) 221-7374
media@dupagehealth.org

DuPage County Board of Health

Sam Tornatore, J.D.
President

Lanny Wilson, M.D.
Vice President

Robert Spadoni, J.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Douglas Chang, D.D.S.
Melinda Finch
Paula Garcia

Janice Guider

Nadeem N. Hussain, M.D.

Uzma Muneer, D.O.

Lawrence J. Schouten, M.D.

Karen Ayala, M.P.H.
Executive Director

September 1, 2022
For Immediate Release

First 2022 Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in DuPage County

DuPage County - The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is reporting the first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in DuPage County in 2022. A Medinah resident in their 60s became ill in mid-August.

WNV is transmitted to people by infected mosquitos. 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).

With a recent increase in mosquito batches testing positive for the presence of WNV, DCHD is asking residents to stay active and safe outdoors by protecting themselves from mosquito bites and the risk of contracting WNV, especially when being active outside over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The best way to prevent WNV is to avoid mosquito bites and follow the four Ds of defense.

- **Drain:** Drain those items that collect standing water around your home, yard, or business. Scrub and refill pet water dishes and bird baths regularly.
- **Defend:** Use an insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors and reapply according to directions.
- **Dress:** Wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes when outside to cover the skin.
- **Dusk to Dawn:** wear repellent outdoors during these prime times for mosquito activity.

Residents are encouraged to check the Personal Protection Index (PPI) on the Health Department's [website](#) for the most up-to-date information on WNV activity.

The current level is 2 which indicates high numbers of infected mosquitoes in most areas and at least one human WNV case. The recommended actions are Drain, Defend, Dress, Dusk to Dawn.



Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

111 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

-PAGE 2-

Media Inquiries:

(630) 221-7374
media@dupagehealth.org

**DuPage County
Board of Health**

Sam Tornatore, J.D.
President

Lanny Wilson, M.D.
Vice President

Robert Spadoni, J.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Douglas Chang, D.D.S.

Melinda Finch

Paula Garcia

Janice Guider

Nadeem N. Hussain, M.D.

Uzma Muneer, D.O.

Lawrence J. Schouten, M.D.

Karen Ayala, M.P.H.
Executive Director

The PPI widget will be updated by 3:00 p.m. every Wednesday throughout the WNV season. These weekly updates will be determined by the Health Department's vector-borne disease surveillance experts.

WNV activity generally decreases in the fall when cooler temperatures arrive and especially after the first frost of the season. Additional information and resources on WNV prevention are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>.

###

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**

