

Mosquito-borne Virus Test Results

For the week ending October 1, 2010

Mosquito-borne Disease Activity in New Jersey: West Nile virus (WNV) and / or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) activity has been identified in all 21 counties in New Jersey.

Human Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) tests blood and other clinical samples from people suspected of having West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) infection.

- To date, there are 20 human cases of WNV that have been identified from the following counties: Atlantic (1), Burlington (1), Camden (3), Cumberland (1), Essex (1), Hudson (2), Mercer (2), Monmouth (2), Ocean (2), Passaic (3), Salem (1) and Union (1). Of these 20 cases, there were 2 reported fatalities (one each in Camden and Hudson counties). 12 cases had evidence of WNV neuro-invasive disease and 8 cases had evidence of WNV fever syndrome.

Avian Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) tests select bird species for WNV infection.

- To date, 235 birds were tested for WNV.
- Of those tested, 128 birds have been confirmed positive for WNV from the following counties: Atlantic (21), Bergen (1), Burlington (5), Cape May (4), Essex (1), Gloucester (7), Hunterdon (1), Mercer (5), Monmouth (15), Morris (9) and Ocean (59).

Mosquito Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) and the Cape May Department of Mosquito Control Bio-safety Level 3 (CMBSL3) Laboratory test mosquitoes for the following viruses:

West Nile virus (WNV):

- To date, 6,655 mosquito pools have been tested for WNV by the NJDHSS PHEL and CMBSL3 Laboratory.
- A total of 838 WNV positive mosquito pools were detected in the following 21 counties: Atlantic (60), Bergen (140), Burlington (46), Camden (76), Cape May (10), Cumberland (1), Essex (25), Gloucester (117), Hudson (92), Hunterdon (11), Mercer (57), Middlesex (53), Monmouth (9), Morris (47), Ocean (18), Passaic (11), Salem (1), Somerset (8), Sussex (6), Union (44) and Warren (6).

Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE):

- To date, 1,643 mosquito pools have been tested for EEE by the NJDHSS PHEL and CMBSL3 Laboratory.
- A total of 21 EEE positive mosquito pools were detected in the following 6 counties: Burlington (4), Camden (3), Cape May (6), Cumberland (2), Gloucester (3) and Salem (3).

St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE):

- To date, 925 mosquito pools have been tested for SLE by the NJDHSS PHEL and CMBSL3 Laboratory.
- No SLE positive mosquito pools have been identified.

La Crosse encephalitis virus (LAC):

- To date, 38 mosquito pools have been tested for LAC by the NJDHSS PHEL and CMBSL3 Laboratory.
- No LAC positive mosquito pools have been identified.

Horse Testing

Equine testing for WNV and EEE is conducted at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's animal health laboratory. Positive results are sent to the National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa for confirmation.

- To date, there are 2 equine cases of WNV that has been reported from the following counties: Atlantic and Gloucester.
- For more information on equine testing, visit the Department of Agriculture website at www.state.nj.us/agriculture.