

Mosquito-borne Virus Test Results

For the week ending September 18, 2009

New In This Update: The first West Nile virus (WNV) human case has been reported; new WNV positive birds and mosquito pools have been identified; and new Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) positive mosquito pools and equine cases have been identified.

Human Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services 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, one case of WNV human infection has been confirmed at PHEL, in a 57 year old man from Hunterdon county. The individual had a symptom onset date of 8/18 with fever, headache, photophobia and rash. The individual was hospitalized for 7 days and has since recovered.

Avian Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services PHEL tests select bird species for WNV infection.

- To date, 94 birds were tested for WNV.
- Of those tested, 25 birds from the following counties have been confirmed positive for WNV: Burlington (1), Gloucester (1), Hunterdon (2), Mercer (2), Monmouth (2) and Ocean (17).

Mosquito Testing

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services PHEL and the Cape May Department of Mosquito Control Bio-safety Level 3 Laboratory test mosquitoes for the following viruses:

West Nile virus (WNV):

- To date, 7,783 mosquito pools have been tested for WNV.
- WNV was detected in 243 mosquito pools in the following counties: Atlantic (2), Bergen (64), Burlington (23), Camden (19), Cape May (12), Essex (2), Gloucester (2), Hudson (36), Hunterdon (20), Mercer (3), Middlesex (12), Monmouth (2), Morris (9), Ocean (6), Passaic (4), Salem (2), Somerset (9), Sussex (3), Union (12) and Warren (1).

Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE):

- To date, 1,359 mosquito pools have been tested for EEE.
- EEE was detected in 88 mosquito pools in the following counties: Atlantic (3), Burlington (11), Camden (14), Cape May (42), Gloucester (6), Monmouth (10), Ocean (1) and Salem (1).

St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE):

- To date, 2,261 mosquito pools have been tested for SLE.
- No SLE positive mosquito pools have been identified.

La Crosse encephalitis virus (LAC):

- To date, 290 mosquito pools have been tested for LAC.
- 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 5 equine cases reported as follows: 1 horse from Atlantic county tested positive for EEE, 1 horse from Burlington county tested positive for EEE, 1 horse from Camden county tested positive for EEE, 1 horse from Gloucester county tested positive for both WNV and EEE, and 1 horse from Salem county tested positive for WNV.
- For more information on equine testing, visit the Department of Agriculture website at www.state.nj.us/agriculture.