



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Administrative Center  
600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1030  
Office: (563) 326-8618 Fax: (563)326-8774  
[www.scottcountyiowa.com/health](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health)



August 8, 2008

RE: Mosquitoes Positive for West Nile Virus in Scott County

The Scott County Health Department reports that two mosquito samples collected in Scott County have tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first report of West Nile Virus in Scott County mosquitoes for this season, although West Nile Virus has been found in the County every year since 2001. No human cases have been reported in Scott County so far this year.

Larry Linnenbrink, Environmental Health Coordinator said, "After the floods earlier this summer, there was an increase in the number of "nuisance" mosquitoes, those that bite but usually don't carry disease. Late summer is typically when we see an increase in the Culex mosquitoes which are the carriers of West Nile Virus. Those mosquitoes breed in small areas of standing water."

The Health Department encourages individuals to take steps to reduce the mosquito population and prevent mosquito bites.

Some of the things to do to reduce the mosquito population are:

- Change the water in birdbaths, pet bowls, and wading pools at least twice a week.
- Dispose of cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, and other water-holding containers. Mosquitoes can breed in containers as small as a pop bottle cap.
- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets, etc.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and drain the water from the pool cover.
- Look around your yard for any areas that hold water after rain and find a way to remove the water-get rid of the container, sweep the water away, fill in holes with dirt, etc.
- Properly dispose of old tires. Old tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes. If you have a tire swing in your yard, make sure there are holes in the bottom of the tire so that rain water can run out.

There are a number of ways to prevent mosquito bites. These ways include:

- Wearing socks and shoes and light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants.
- Repairing tears in window screens.
- Limiting the time spent outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.
- Not wearing perfume or fragrances when outdoors.
- Wearing insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (carefully read and follow all directions on the label before use). Do not use DEET on infants under two years of age, pregnant women, or children's bedding or clothing.

For more information on West Nile Virus visit <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/mosquito.php>.