

## BAY COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

810 Livingston  
Bay City, Michigan 48708

### REBECCA J. BRANDT, MANAGER

brandtr@baycounty.net

Phone (989) 894-4555  
Fax (989) 894-0526  
TDD (989) 895-4049  
<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov>



**JIM BARCIA**  
County Executive

**LAURA OGAR, DIRECTOR**  
ogarl@baycounty.net

Community Initiatives  
Geographic Information Systems  
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program  
Mosquito Control  
Transportation Planning

## Press Release

### West Nile Virus Found in Bay County Crows

**For Immediate Release:** July 3, 2017  
**Contact:** Rebecca J. Brandt or Mary J. McCarry  
**Phone:** (989) 894-4555, FAX: (989) 894-0526

Routine disease surveillance conducted by Bay County Mosquito Control detected two crows from Monitor Township that tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). In response, extensive control efforts have taken place in the area to reduce adult and larval mosquito populations. Mosquito Control staff will continue to monitor WNV until October 1 by testing mosquito samples and dead crows or blue jays. "Since 2002, when WNV was at its peak, positive birds and mosquitoes have been detected nearly every year in Bay County," said Rebecca Brandt, Bay County Mosquito Control Manager.

Citizens should call Mosquito Control at (989) 894-4555 to report dead crows or blue jays. The birds should be dead less than 24 hours and in good condition (no rotting odor or presence of maggots). If you find a dead bird, don't handle the bird with bare hands. Instead, always wear gloves or scoop the bird with a plastic shopping bag. Homeowners may dispose of other dead bird species either in an outside garbage can or by burying the bird.

WNV is well-established throughout the state, and indeed, throughout the country and is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Michigan has reported no human cases for the 2017 season. Statistically, only two people in 10 who are bitten by an infected mosquito will experience any illness, which is usually mild and includes fever, headache, and body aches. About one in 150 people suffer serious illness, such as encephalitis and meningitis.

Bay County citizens do not need to panic about this information. The best way to prevent WNV or any other mosquito-carried illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. To further lessen the risk of acquiring WNV,

**Bay County Mosquito Control**

**July 3, 2017**

follow these recommendations:

- Eliminate sources of standing water on property (i.e., wading pools, old tires, buckets, containers) by dumping water where possible to prevent mosquito eggs from hatching or larvae from developing into biting adults.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks when outdoors and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Consult a physician or visit the CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) before applying repellents to infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens.

For more information on WNV, visit the following websites:

- Bay County Health Department [www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/CommunicableDisease.aspx](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/CommunicableDisease.aspx)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/q&a.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/q&a.htm)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs)

###