



Bay County Mosquito Control

West Nile Virus Update

Special points of interest as of September 2, 2009:

- No human cases reported from Michigan
- 4,747 mosquitoes analyzed for West Nile with less than 1% found to be positive.
- Watch for and dump water in backyard breeding habitats like buckets and wading pools.
- 123 human cases of WNV in U.S. with 4 fatalities.



Mosquito seeking a blood meal.

Mosquito Control staff rely on Bay County citizens' reporting of dead birds in our disease surveillance efforts. We are interested in learning about all dead birds sighted and will log that information into a database. However, we will only test corvids, which include *American Crows*, *Blue Jays*, and *Common Ravens*.

The birds are examined in-house using a test called the VecTest, which detects the

presence of West Nile Virus in the bird's saliva. To promote accuracy, birds must be recently deceased—basically, the fresher, the better. If you find a dead bird, please call our office any time to report the bird. If crows, blue jays, or ravens are found, birds will be retrieved and tested immediately. Response to after-hours calls occurs the next business day. To keep birds fresh, homeowners can refrigerate the bird or wrap the bird in a plastic bag and then place that atop ice to keep cool. This helps slow decomposition.

To date, there have been no human cases of WNV reported in the State of Michigan for the 2009 reporting season. Nationally, 123 cases, including 4 fatalities, have been reported in 22 states, with most cases reported from Mississippi.

Refer to our website at www.baycountymi.gov/MosquitoControl and click on the "West Nile" link for updated information.

Which Mosquito Repellents Work Best?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using products shown to work in scientific trials that contain active ingredients registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use as insect repellents on skin or clothing. When the EPA registers a repellent, they measure its effectiveness and potential effects on human beings and the environment. This EPA registration means that EPA does not expect a

product, when used according to label directions, to cause unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment. The CDC believes of the active ingredients registered with EPA, two have demonstrated a higher degree of efficacy. Products containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) or Picaridin typically provide longer-lasting protection than others.

