



Bay County Mosquito Control

West Nile Virus Update

2017 Data

- 43 human WNV cases in Michigan with three fatalities; two of the cases were reported from Bay County (both patients recovered)
- 2,002 human cases of WNV in U.S. with 121 fatalities.
- Bay County had 16 groups of mosquitoes test positive for WNV; 22 birds also tested positive.
- Watch for and dump water in backyard breeding habitats like buckets and wading pools.



Mosquito seeking a blood meal.

Mosquito Control staff rely on Bay County citizens' reporting 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 *American Crows and Blue Jays*, as they are the indicator birds.

The birds are examined in-house using a test called the VectorTest, 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 or blue jays 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 were two human cases of WNV reported in the State of Michigan for the 2017 reporting season. Nationally, 2002 human cases, including 121 fatalities, have been reported in 48 states, with most cases reported from California.

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. Products containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) or Picaridin typically provide longer-lasting protection than others.

