



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

Public Information Office

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NEWS RELEASE & PSA

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For Immediate Release

West Nile Virus Found in Stedman Area

The State Laboratory of Public Health of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has reported to the Cumberland County Health Department that two birds in the Stedman area have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

West Nile Virus is a virus carried by mosquitoes that can cause illness in some people. It may cause headache, fever, swollen glands, muscle aches, and often a rash. In severe cases it may cause an infection of the brain (encephalitis). People 50 years of age and older and those with health problems are more at risk for serious illness due to West Nile Virus.

Earlier in the season laboratory tests confirmed West Nile Virus in a bird in the Spring Lake/Fort Bragg area.

The Cumberland County Health Department has an ongoing seasonal mosquito-spraying program that began on June 1st and will continue until fall. Presently, all areas of Cumberland County (municipalities included) are experiencing mosquito problems and are being sprayed on a rotating basis.

Dead birds may be reported to the Environmental Health Division at 433-3660.

It is advisable that people throughout Cumberland County take the following precautions:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants while outdoors (light colored/light weight)
- Avoid places where there are a lot of mosquitoes, particularly at dusk and dawn
- Use repellents containing DEET (30% or less for adults, 10% or less for children) to prevent mosquito bites, carefully following the label instructions
- Keep screens on windows and doors in good repair
- Empty, destroy, recycle, or cover containers like tires, tin cans, buckets, and bottles that hold water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs
- Change water in pet bowls and bird baths at least once a week
- Remove or empty dishes under potted plants
- Stock ponds with fish
- Cover or treat unused pools

- Clean clogged rain gutters
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets
- Put special “donuts” made with mosquito-killing bacteria in water where mosquito eggs may hatch

For more information you can contact Health Education at 433-3890/3894.