

Macon Mosquito Abatement District



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Residents Should Remain Vigilant In Protecting Against West Nile Virus

DECATUR, IL- The Macon Mosquito Abatement District (MMAD) and Macon County Health Department (MCHD) would like to remind residents of Macon County to remain vigilant when it comes to protection against mosquitoes. On a weekly basis MMAD traps and tests mosquitoes for West Nile Virus within its 101-square mile district using 18 separate trap sites and has found 60 positive batches out of 522 tested. No human cases have been reported in Macon County. Recent unseasonably warm temperatures create conditions for mosquitoes that can carry WNV. Sam Force, MMAD Director states, "generally, trends suggest that higher temperatures breed more mosquitoes and make them more active".

MMAD continues the fight against West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes, through its surveillance, trapping and adult mosquito control. To date, MMAD has implemented adult mosquito control efforts using an ultra-low volume (ULV) truck mounted fogger 7 evenings in areas where trap data has recorded elevated WNV. Sam Force says, "all adult mosquito control efforts are monitored and follow precise label recommendations approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)".

MMAD would also like to remind residents that personal protection is the first line of defense against WNV. Residents are encouraged to remove all standing water and eliminate brush and tall grass that breed and harbor mosquitoes. To help reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito: wear insect repellent, avoid outdoors between dusk to dawn and the early evening when mosquitoes are most active, and insure window and door screens are "bug tight".

Residents with questions about mosquitoes, those who would like more information, and/or those who would like to report standing water should contact the Macon Mosquito Abatement District at (217) 875-2722.

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