



902 W. Springfield, Rd, Taylorville, IL 62568
Phone: 217-824-4113 Fax: 217-824-5407

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: July 25, 2023

CHRISTIAN COUNTY MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITO VECTOR REPORT

Taylorville, IL - As of July 25, 2023 twenty eight (28) counties in Illinois have been found to be West Nile virus (WNV) positive, this is Christian County's second positive case from collected mosquitos. The mosquitoes were collected on July 25th in the East Taylorville area and Environmental Health staff conducted the confirmatory test on the mosquitoes at the Health Department. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), a county is considered positive for WNV when a mosquito, bird, horse, or human tests positive for the virus.

According to the weekly WNV activity report released by the IDPH, there have been no human cases of WNV in the state in the 2023 season. Christian County Health Department Administrator, Dr. Chad Anderson, Administrator cautioned residents "with it being so warm during the day, people are going out in the early evening when it starts to cool off. This is the perfect time for mosquitos. Be sure to wear repellent when you are outside and take precautions while enjoying outdoor activities.

Monitoring for WNV in Christian County includes testing batches of mosquitos that are collected in traps located in various areas of the County. We also collect dead birds for testing, if you see a sick or dead crow, blue jay, robin or other perching bird, please contact your local health department and they will determine if the bird is suitable for testing.

The Christian County Health Department will continue to monitor and test mosquitoes for WNV. Remember reducing mosquito breeding habitats and reporting dead birds can help reduce our chance of contracting this virus. If you have any questions regarding West Nile Virus or other disease vectors, please contact your local health department.

Dr. Chad Anderson
Administrator
Christian County Health Department