

# GRUNDY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## **For Immediate Release**

Date: September 23, 2022

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The Grundy County Health Department has recently collected mosquitoes in the Village of Channahon and City of Morris that have tested positive for West Nile Virus. These are the first batches of mosquitoes to test positive in Grundy County this year. Identifying positive mosquitos is a usual activity every year. The mosquitoes were collected during the first weeks of September.

Although summer is wrapping up, the Grundy County Health Department encourages everyone to continue taking preventative steps related to mosquito-borne viruses. To minimize your risks, Reduce, Repel and Report.

Reduce exposure by avoiding the outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Ensure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens, repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings, and eliminate all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles, and change water in bird baths weekly.

Repel mosquitoes when outdoors by wearing shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. IDPH recommends applying insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

Finally, Report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes to whomever handles mosquito control activities in your area. Most often in Grundy, that is the local municipality.

Per IDPH, “mild cases of West Nile infections may cause a slight fever or headache. More severe infections are marked by a rapid onset of a high fever with head and body aches, disorientation, tremors, convulsions and, in the most severe cases, paralysis or death.” These symptoms will typically appear between three (3) to fourteen (14) days after the bite of an infected mosquito. “Persons at the highest risk for serious illness are those 50 years of age or older.”

For further information regarding vector surveillance, please contact the Grundy County Health Department at 815-941-3115. Or visit [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm).

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