

West Nile Virus Activities Have Concluded for 2021

The Durham Region Health Department has concluded its 2021 mosquito surveillance and control program activities for West Nile Virus (WNV). The components of the program for 2021 were: monitoring and larviciding of roadside catch basins and catch basins on regionally owned residential properties, monitoring and larviciding of stagnant surface water sites located on regional and municipal property, and investigation of complaints regarding stagnant water sites on private property. In addition, adult mosquitoes were trapped at 14 sites across the region for species identification and WNV testing. Suspect human WNV cases were also investigated.

Three full rounds of regional roadside catch basin larviciding were completed. The first round began on June 9, 2021, the second began on July 5, 2021 and the final round began on August 2, 2021. Approximately 63 000 catch basins were treated per round.

Between early May and early October, 3135 total standing surface water site surveillance visits were completed which resulted in 978 larvicide treatments by our licensed pest control contractor. A total of 9 complaints of stagnant standing water sites on private residential properties were reported by the public and investigated by a Public Health Inspector in 2021. When larval mosquitoes were observed, private property owners were issued orders to remediate or treat the standing water with a larvicide thereby eliminating potential mosquito larvae breeding grounds.

The adult mosquito surveillance program started on June 7, 2021 and concluded in late September. 14 fixed trap sites located across Durham Region were collected weekly. In 2021, 479 batches of mosquitoes were tested and 10 mosquito pools tested positive for WNV.

Reported cases of WNV in humans were investigated by Public Health Inspectors. In 2021, there has been 1 confirmed case and 2 probable cases of human WNV in Durham Region to date.