

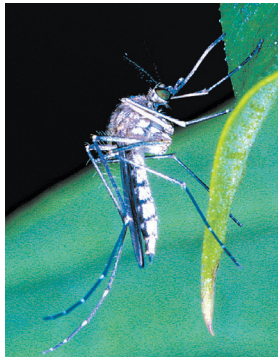
WNV mosquitoes found in Acton

A batch of mosquitoes collected last week in Halton Hills has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

This is the first batch of positive mosquitoes found in Acton and the fourteenth batch in Halton Region this year. The mosquitoes were collected from the area of Mill and Main Sts.

"Our surveillance indicates that there is a risk of West Nile virus infection throughout the Region this year and there are still several weeks of summer to go," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health. "It is important that all Halton residents continue to take measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites throughout the rest of the summer."

Mosquitoes can transmit WNV to humans after becoming infected by feeding on birds carrying the virus. Older adults and people with underlying illnesses should be particularly cautious as they are more likely to develop the illness. The following are steps that residents can take to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes:



- Cover up. Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants with tightly-woven fabric.

- Avoid being outdoors from early evening to morning. This is when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, as well as at any time in shady, wooded areas.

- Reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home by getting rid of all water-filled containers and objects. Change the water in bird baths at least once per week.

- Use an approved insect repellent, such as one containing DEET.

Maps showing the locations of positive mosquito pools, as well as standing water sites that have had larvicide applied are available on the Health Department's website at www.halton.ca/wnv.

To report standing water or for more information about West Nile virus, please dial 311 or call Halton Region at 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), TTY 905-827-9833 or e-mail wnv@halton.ca.



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