## Four test positive for West Nile

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The Halton Region Health Department has announced four residents in the region have tested positive for West Nile virus.

These are the first four human cases of the virus detected so far this year. According to the region's annual infectious diseases report there was only one confirmed case throughout the region last year.

While 80 per cent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms, others will have West Nile fever consisting of fever, headache, muscle ache and a rash. If residents are concerned or experiencing symptoms, I would encourage them to visit their health care professional," said Dr. Daniela Kempkens, Acting Medical Officer of Health in a release.

While the region did not specify which areas the infected persons were from, mosquito test batches have tested positive for West Nile in all four of Halton's major municipalities so far this summer. Three dead crows found in Milton also tested positive for the virus at the end of June.

According to the region, the types of mosquitoes capable of transmitting the virus to human tend to live and breed in urban areas where standing water in places like bird baths, potted plants, old toys and tires are common.

"As part of its ongoing West Nile preven-

tion program, Halton Region staff continually monitor areas of standing water, eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites and larvicide when mosquito larvae is found," wrote the region in its release.

The larviciding program is restricted to public lands and spaces and the region is not allowed to larvicide on private property. Property owners are responsible for monitoring standing water and applying any pesticides on private property.

Resident can however report standing water in public places to the region by visiting halton.ca/wnv or by calling 311. A map of public areas which have already been treated is also available on the website.

In the meantime, the region is advising residents to take the following steps to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites:

- COVER UP. Wear light-coloured, longsleeved shirts and pants with tightly-woven
- AVOID being outdoors from early evening to morning when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, as well as at any time in shady, wooded areas.
- USE an approved insect repellent, such as one containing DEET or Icaridin.
- REDUCE mosquito breeding sites around your home by getting rid of all water-filled containers and objects, where possible. Change the water in bird baths at least once per week.



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Make a list of priorities for you and your The emotion associated with fall is grief. It's family, as fall heightens our innate ability to a good time of year to reflect on unresolved get stuff done.

Wear a scarf in order to protect the neck at Eat warm, cooked food. Trade the salads in this time of year. As the weather turns cold for oven-roasted veggies over brown rice. and the wind picks up, the Lung organ is When cooking, add onions, ginger, garlic or extra vulnerable to viruses and pathogens.

including dry skin, rashes, and constipation Drink lots of water and keep your skin moisturized and protected

sadness and grief, and try to let it go.

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benefit the Lung organ. Get Acupuncture if you are susceptible to colds, flus, Lung conditions, or depression at

this time of year.

mustard-these pungent foods are known to

Wishing you a happy and healthy Autumn.



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