

West Nile has little effect on most people

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More than 10 people in the United States have died of the disease since the virus was introduced to North America three years ago.

Most people who contract the disease will exhibit few or no symptoms.

A few may develop mild flu-like symptoms.

In less than 1 per cent of cases, victims develop inflammation of the brain, causing severe muscle weakness, headache, stiff neck, vomiting, nausea and eventual deterioration of consciousness and mental state.

Meanwhile, another four birds carrying the virus were identified this week, bringing this year's total to six.

Two of the newly reported crows were found in Vaughan near the intersection of Bathurst Street and Steeles. Another was discovered in Richmond Hill close to Bayview Avenue and

Major Mackenzie Drive and the other was in Markham near Hwy. 404 and Steeles.

The infected birds found earlier this summer were discovered in East Gwillimbury off Yonge Street in Holland Landing and in Markham near Hwy. 404 and Steeles.

Last year, 25 birds testing positive for the virus were found in York Region, including 20 birds in Markham, three in Vaughan, one in Whitchurch-Stouffville and one in Georgina.

The public health department is urging residents to take precautions such as using insect repellent outdoors, getting rid of standing water in pots, tires or swimming pool covers and reporting dead crows to Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

For more information, call Health Connection or visit the region's Website at www.region.york.on.ca.



Protect the lives of your family... ensure everyone is buckled up for safety



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