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PRESS RELEASE

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LICKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS SECOND WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTED BIRD FOUND IN COUNTY

Newark, OH, August 24, 2007: A dead crow found in Heath has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the second WNV infected crow found in Licking County, the first was detected in a dead bird found in Newark Township in late July, the Licking County Health Department said today. There have only been five WNV infected birds found in Ohio this year; two in Licking County, two in Lucas County, and one in Jackson County. Fourteen counties, including Franklin and Perry, have identified WNV positive mosquitoes. No infected mosquitoes have been found yet this year in Licking County.

“We know that there are infected birds in the area, and the mosquitoes that feed on those birds can transmit the disease to humans.” said Licking County Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel. “That is why controlling mosquito populations, and advising residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, are important public health issues.”

Personal Prevention Measures

- When possible, avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are likely to be biting.
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Light colors are less attractive to mosquitoes.
- Use mosquito repellent according to label directions.
- Keep windows and doors closed and be sure screens are in good repair.

Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Remove all discarded tires from your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly, clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered.

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- Drain water from pool covers.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, and other items which collect water, when not in use.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property.

The Licking County Health Department conducts a mosquito control program each summer, which includes collecting dead birds and trapping mosquitoes for testing, as well as applying larvacide and spraying adulticide to control mosquito populations. If you notice a high number of mosquitoes in your area, the health department asks that you call to schedule a mosquito trapping and investigation. For more information contact the Licking County Health Department at (740) 349-6535, or visit www.lickingcohealth.org.

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