West Nile Virus Update  
Clark County  
July 2015

- There have been **0 human cases** of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Clark County in 2015.
- Since WNV was first identified in Washington State in 2002, there have been 2 human cases of WNV reported in Clark County — one in 2006 (confirmed) and one in 2012 (probable).
- Various efforts are in place to detect WNV, and other mosquito borne illnesses, including: surveillance for human cases, dead bird reporting, testing the blood supply, and mosquito sampling.
- About 1 in 5 people infected develop symptoms, and <1% of infected people develop serious or fatal illness.
- There have been 17 cases in the USA, and one case in Washington State, 2015 YTD.
- WNV activity is at its highest from July to September.
- Symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Figure 1. WNV Activity by State, United States, 2015 (as of July 14)

http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsmaps/preliminarilymapsdata/activitystate date.html
Clark County WNV Surveillance Efforts, 2015

- There have been 0 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Clark County in 2015.
- No mosquitoes captured in Clark County have tested positive for WNV.
- No WNV has been detected in blood donated by Clark County residents.
- No mosquitoes from the west side of Washington State have ever tested positive for WNV.

Issues that may contribute to WNV activity

- **Standing water** such as irrigation canals may provide breeding habitat for mosquitoes.
- **Dry weather** may increase mosquito-bird interaction as insects and birds congregate around the fewer available water sources. **Warm weather** also increases mosquito activity.
- **More birds** and/or **less WNV immunity** among birds

Why we continue to monitor for WNV

- This virus is relatively new to the US, and probably here as a result of globalization. This is still an emerging virus, and we want to understand its distribution and the people it affects.
- To identify when and if WNV poses a threat to the blood supply. Ensure continued testing of WNV in blood and some organs. All blood is currently tested for WNV.
- We can prevent WNV. Our outreach involves sharing information about prevention, especially using mosquito repellent and wearing protective clothing. If we prevent mosquito bites, we can prevent WNV.