2016
Vector-Borne Disease
Annual Report
Background
West Nile virus is a disease primarily seen in birds, but it can be spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. Some people may develop flu-like symptoms and fewer people, about 1%, may develop more serious neurological symptoms.

Surveillance

43,301 mosquitoes trapped from 17 sites.
1 pool of mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile virus (211 in Ontario).
0 human cases of West Nile virus (55 cases in Ontario).
Low rainfall from April to July. Mosquitoes need standing water to breed.

Mosquito control

About 50,000 catch basins in Waterloo Region. Catch basins are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus.
3 rounds of larvicide treatment in catch basins. Coloured dots are sprayed on catch basins for each round.
1.96 hectares of standing water treated with larvicide. Includes ditches, storm water management ponds and pools in natural areas.

Fight THE bite!

Fight the Bite brochure.
Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.
Screen out mosquitoes.
Make personal protection a priority.
Background

In Ontario, Lyme Disease is caused by the bite of a blacklegged tick that is infected with Borrelia burgdorferi. Blacklegged ticks are not commonly found in Waterloo Region. If you find a tick on your body it’s important to remove it with tweezers as soon as possible. A tick must usually be attached for at least 24 hours before Lyme disease could be passed on.

Surveillance

85 ticks submitted to Waterloo Public Health for testing.

7 ticks were blacklegged ticks

1 Blacklegged tick tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease

2 human cases of Lyme Disease, acquired outside Waterloo Region (360 cases in Ontario).

Fight the Bite brochure.

Wear long-sleeves and pants. Tuck your pants into your socks. Wear light colours. This makes it easier to find ticks.

When hiking, stay on the path. Check your body and clothes for ticks.

Use bug spray with Deet or Icaridin. Apply as per label directions.

For more information visit the Public Health website or call 519-575-4400.
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For more information call Region of Waterloo Public Health Health Protection and Investigation Division

519-575-4400 / TTY: 519-575-4608
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/fightthebite

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Alternate formats of this document are available upon request. Please call the oordinator, Health Communications at 519-575-4400 ext. 2244 (TTY 519-575-4608) to request an alternate format.