

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sixth Dead Bird Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County Public Health received a report on September 13, 2004 that a dead crow submitted from the 48109 zip code in Ann Arbor tested positive for West Nile virus. The crow was found on September 9th, was approved for testing, and submitted to the State lab. This is the sixth positive bird identified in Washtenaw County for the 2004 West Nile season. The other positive dead birds were found in the 48158, 48130, 48105, 48197, and 48103 zip codes. In addition, West Nile positive birds have been identified this season in five Washtenaw zip codes that are shared by other counties (dead bird found in the adjacent county), including 48178, 48169, 48137, 48170, and 49236.

The sixth positive bird and the two recent horse cases in Washtenaw County indicate active transmission of West Nile virus throughout our community. No human cases have been reported in Washtenaw County this year. In 2004 to date, only three human cases have been reported in Michigan; none have died. However, human cases are still possible in September and October. Dr. Stan Reedy, Medical Director of Washtenaw County Public Health, encourages individuals to continue taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

Washtenaw County residents should continue to report sightings of dead birds from all zip codes to the local hotline at **(734) 544-6750**. Dead crows, blue jays and ravens will be accepted for testing from the following zip codes: 48104, 48108, 48176, 48160, 48198, 48118, 48167, 48191, and 49240.

More information on West Nile virus is available on the county, state and national websites:

www.ewashtenaw.org

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus

www.cdc.gov