

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## ADMINISTRATION

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**For Immediate Release**



## Resident of Oneida County Tests Positive for WNV

An Oneida County resident recently test positive for West Nile Virus. This person has a travel history outside of Oneida County and has not exhibited any severe symptoms.

*“Each week our Environmental Health Division collects a variety of mosquitos’ species from 9 trap sites around the county and submits them to the Wadsworth Laboratory as part of our ongoing WNV monitoring program,”* said Phyllis D. Ellis, Director of Health. Ellis added, *“To date, all collections from these site have tested negative for the virus.”*

West Nile Virus can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes that first have bitten by an infected bird. The disease first surfaced in Oneida County in the summer of 2000 when the health department began collecting dead crows felled by the virus. Birds are no longer collected locally, since the virus is known to be in this area. Persons over 50 years of age and those with compromised immune symptoms are at greatest risk from the disease. The risk of contracting the disease from a single mosquito bite is extremely low.

The most effective way to avoid West Nile virus disease is to prevent mosquito bites. Be aware of the West Nile virus activity in your area and take action to protect yourself and your family. Personal protection measures are the best way to prevent West Nile Virus. They include:

- Avoid mosquito bites by covering exposed arms and legs when outdoors, particularly between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are feeding and most active.
- Use insect repellents containing DEET, carefully following application instructions and never spraying it directly on a child.
- Repair broken screens on doors and windows to mosquito-proof your home.
- Eliminate sources of standing water around your home like pails, old tires, wading pools and bird baths that serve as breeding areas for mosquitoes.

For more information on West Nile Virus contact the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5064 or go to our web site at [www.ocgov.net/health](http://www.ocgov.net/health).

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