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Health officials: 81-year-old Oakland County woman dies due to West Nile Virus

Click On Detroit – September 25, 2015

Health officials say woman died due to complications from virus

OAKLAND COUNTY, Mich. - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed an 81-year-old woman from Oakland County died due to complications from West Nile Virus (WNV), the Oakland County Health Division announced Friday morning.

She is the first human WNV-related death in Oakland County since 2003 and the first this year in Michigan.

"This is a tragic reminder of how severe West Nile Virus can be, especially for adults over 50 who are at greater risk for severe illness," said George Miller, director of Oakland County Department of Health and Human Services. "We strongly encourage residents to protect themselves and family members from mosquitoes, even as we enter the fall season."

Quick Clicks

Oakland County confirms 2 human cases of West Nile Virus
 1st human cases of West Nile Virus confirmed in Michigan
 Crow in Oakland County tests positive for West Nile Virus
 Mosquitoes in Wayne County test positive for West Nile Virus

Oakland County health officials announced last week it received laboratory confirmation from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services of two human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the county.

"All residents are strongly urged to follow prevention tips to protect themselves from WNV, especially those who are 50 and older who are more susceptible to severe symptoms," said Kathy Forzley OCHD manager/health officer. "Most people infected with WNV do not have any symptoms, but for those who do become sick, the disease can be serious, even fatal."

So far this year, two mosquito pools, a crow and a blood donor have also tested positive for WNV. Earlier this month, Michigan health officials identified the state's first confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus for 2015 in Macomb, Monroe, and Ottawa counties. Other cases were confirmed in Wayne County, but are not considered human cases.

Follow these tips to prevent WNV:

- Use insect repellent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the use of insect repellents containing active ingredients registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Always follow manufacturer's directions carefully.
- Be careful using repellent on the hands of children because repellents may irritate their eyes and mouths.
- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Limit outdoor activity from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Avoid areas where mosquitoes may be present such as shaded and wooded areas.
- Maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water that collects in birdbaths, boats, buckets, tires, unused pools, roof gutters and other containers.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/health-officials-81yearold-oakland-county-woman-dies-due-to-west-nile-virus/35481044>

Foster care advocates cite training, funding as top priorities

WKAR – September 23, 2015, By Scott Pohl

Yesterday, the public policy organization Michigan's Children held a forum called "Raising the Voices of Caregivers from the Foster Care System" to discuss how to improve the system. *Current State* speaks with Michele Corey, vice president of programs at Michigan's Children, and state Rep. Jim Runestad.

[Click here to listen](#)

There are more than 13,000 children and caregivers in Michigan's foster care system. Yesterday, the public policy organization Michigan's Children held a forum called "Raising the Voices of Caregivers from the Foster Care System" at the state capitol. Parents, lawmakers and others got together to work on improving the system. Our next guests were there and will help us learn about the challenges being faced by the state in the months and years to come.

Current State guest host Sue Carter speaks with Michele Corey, vice president of programs with Michigan's Children, and Rep. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake).

<http://wkar.org/post/foster-care-advocates-cite-training-funding-top-priorities>

Elevated lead found in more Flint kids after water switch, study finds

MLive – September 24, 2015, By Ron Fonger

FLINT, MI -- More Flint infants and children are being found with elevated levels of lead in their blood since the city switched to using the Flint River as its water source, according to a new study by a Hurley Medical Center doctor.

The data show that the percentage of Flint infants and children with above average lead levels has nearly doubled citywide, and has nearly tripled among children in "high risk" areas of lead exposure, according to the study.

The research was based on blood samples from more than 1,700 children living in the city, and underscores Flint's struggles with water quality since switching from Lake Huron water in April 2014. Results of the study were delivered to Flint Mayor Dayne Walling and City Administrator Natasha Henderson this week.

The study includes a recommendation that the city end its use of the Flint River as its drinking water source "as soon as possible."