



West Nile Virus: Fact Sheet #4

NWT Surveillance

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is participating in the Canada-wide surveillance for West Nile virus. Surveillance activities in the NWT this summer will focus on birds, particularly members of the corvid family (crows, ravens, magpies and jays).

Experience from past outbreaks in Canada has shown that these birds are highly susceptible to West Nile virus. This makes them the best indicator for determining whether people in particular areas are at risk.

Currently, West Nile virus has not been detected in the mosquito, bird or animal populations of the NWT. It has also not yet appeared directly in British Columbia or the Yukon.

Renewable Resource officers throughout the NWT should be notified of dead bird sightings so they can collect the bird carcasses to send them for testing. Officers have the training to handle and transport dead birds safely.

Additional information on the national surveillance and response program is available at:

http://wildlife1.usask.ca/en/west_nile_virus/wnv_home.php

For more information on the NWT Surveillance program, contact your local Renewable Resource Officer or the Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources at (867) 920-8064.

For further information:

Contact the Office of The Chief Medical Health Officer at (867) 920-8877.

Visit the following websites:

www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca – NWT Department of Health and Social Services

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dc-ma/wnv-vno/index_e.html – Health Canada