



LaSalle County Health Department News Releases 2004



- 12-28-04 [Horse Dies of Rabies in LaSalle County](#)
12-16-04 [Area Restaurants Added to the Illinois Smoke-free Restaurant Recognition Program](#)
12-09-04 [Vaccination is Not the Only Way to Help Prevent the Flu](#)
12-02-04 [WORLD AIDS AWARENESS](#)
-
- 11-15-04 [High-Risk Individuals Still in Need of Flu Vaccination Are Encouraged to Contact Their Physician](#)
11-01-04 [Health Department No Longer Taking Names of High-Risk Individuals](#)
11-01-04 [Health Department Hold First High-Risk Flu Vaccination Clinic](#)
-
- 10-28-04 [Health Department Taking Names of High-Risk Individuals in Need of Flu Vaccination](#)
10-08-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Fifth Case of West Nile Virus](#)
10-08-04 [Flu Clinics Cancelled](#)
10-05-04 [Flu Vaccine Shortage](#)
-
- 09-30-04 [Ninth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
09-30-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Influenza Vaccine Clinic Schedule Fall 2004](#)
09-30-04 [LaSalle County Flu Clinics to begin in October](#)
09-28-04 [October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)
09-27-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Fourth Case of West Nile Virus](#)
09-16-04 [Eighth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
09-14-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Third Case of West Nile Virus](#)
09-13-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Second Human Case of West Nile Virus](#)
09-07-04 [Seventh Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
09-02-04 [Sixth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
09-02-04 [Two Bats Test Positive for Rabies in LaSalle County](#)
-
- 08-30-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Confirms First Case of West Nile Virus in LaSalle County](#)
08-19-04 [Twelfth Annual Food Service Seminar September 13th](#)
08-03-04 [Fifth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
-
- 07-30-04 [Fourth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
07-29-04 [Third Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
07-14-04 [Second Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
07-09-04 [Hospital Task Force Holds Tabletop Exercise](#)
07-08-04 [Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus](#)
-
- 06-28-04 [Area Restaurants Named Smoke-Free](#)
-
- 04-30-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Begins Dead Bird Surveillance](#)
04-30-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Working with Township Supervisors to Collect Information for Emergency Situations](#)
04-26-04 [LaSalle County Health Department Offers Last Tetanus Clinic In Utica](#)

- 04-23-04** [Tetanus Shots Available at LaSalle County Health Department](#)
- 04-21-04** [Tetanus Clinics](#)
- 04-21-04** [BOIL WATER ORDERS OR INTERRUPTED WATER SERVICE GUIDELINES](#)
- 04-01-04** [LaSalle County Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Week](#)
-
- 03-09-04** [Area Restaurants Named Smoke-Free](#)
-
- 02-09-04** [Gonorrhea Cases Up In LaSalle County!](#)
-
- 01-16-04** [2004 Edition of "LaSalle County Resource Guide" Now Available](#)
- 01-08-04** [HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES VACCINE](#)
- 01-06-04** [GENETICS CLINIC OFFERED](#)
- 01-06-04** [CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING MONTH](#)
-

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

December 28, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Horse Dies of Rabies in LaSalle County”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 815-433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661.

OTTAWA, IL –The LaSalle County Health Department and LaSalle County Animal Control in conjunction with the Illinois Departments of Public Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources are advising LaSalle County residents to beware of skunks that may be carrying the rabies virus. This advisory follows a horse in LaSalle County that tested positive for rabies at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg on December 10. The LaSalle County Health Department identified eleven LaSalle County residents requiring preventative treatment following exposure to the horse.

On December 27, LaSalle County Health Department was notified that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) had received test results from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that identified the virus infecting the horse as a skunk strain of rabies, indicating the horse was probably bitten by a rabid skunk. IDPH has asked local county animal control agencies and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to increase skunk surveillance in a three-county area including La Salle, Lee and DeKalb. This surveillance will be used to determine if the virus is circulating widely in skunks in this area of the state.

"This horse is the first mammal other than a bat to have developed rabies in the state since 1998," said Dr. Eric E. Whitaker, state public health director. "We encourage citizens to avoid contact with wild, unfamiliar or stray animals to avoid possible exposure to the rabies virus."

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. Rabies is most commonly transmitted to people through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies is almost always a fatal

disease once symptoms appear. Prompt rabies treatment after exposures can prevent the development of rabies.

"With proper vaccination, rabies is a preventable disease in the animal population," said Acting State Veterinarian Dr. Colleen O'Keefe. "Therefore, I would recommend that pet owners, especially those in LaSalle, Lee and DeKalb counties, vaccinate their cats and dogs and that farmers and horse owners in the area consider vaccinating their animals."

Any wild animal, like a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote or bat, can have rabies and transmit it to people. Animals with rabies may not be foaming at the mouth or showing aggressive behavior. Changes in the animal's normal behavior, such as difficulty walking or just an overall appearance of illness, can be early signs of rabies. For example, skunks, which normally are nocturnal and avoid contact with people, may appear friendly or aggressive and may approach humans during daylight hours. "Any individual exposed to animals exhibiting unusual behaviors, should not hesitate to contact the LaSalle County Health Department to determine if rabies preventative treatment is necessary" said Julie Kerestes, Administrator of LaSalle County Health Department.

Currently, bats are the primary carrier reservoir of rabies in Illinois. Fifty bats have been identified with rabies so far this year, the highest number seen during a single calendar year. LaSalle County Health Department reported three bats tested positive for rabies involving human exposure in 2004.

LaSalle County residents should take the following precautions:

- Vaccinate pets and valuable livestock or horses after consultation with their animal's veterinarian.
- Stay away from wild, unfamiliar or stray animals to avoid bites that may transmit rabies.
- Report sightings of skunks, which are acting abnormally, seen during daylight hours, having trouble walking, are being aggressive or approaching humans.
- Contact your physician and LaSalle County Health Department if you or someone in your family is bitten by an animal or exposed to a bat.
- Contact your LaSalle County Animal Control and your veterinarian if you believe your pet may have been bitten by a wild mammal (raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote or bat).

Avoid direct contact with unfamiliar animals:

- Enjoy wild animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes) from afar. Do not handle, feed or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. Call animal control or a veterinarian for assistance.
- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild, or domestic, even if they appear friendly. “Love your own, leave other animals alone” is a good principle for children to learn.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people or pets.

For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661. Additional information is available on the LaSalle County Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

###

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

December 16, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Area Restaurants Added to the Illinois Smoke-free Restaurant Recognition Program”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department has, through the Illinois Smoke-Free Restaurant Identification Program, identified five area establishments that classify themselves as “smoke-free”. Fox’s Pizza Den and the Hampton Inn, both located in Ottawa, have been identified as “smoke-free”. In addition, Kaytee’s Ice Cream, Mendota, Master Stir Fry, Peru, and Ryniks Restaurant, Streator have also been identified as “smoke-free” establishments.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to offer our congratulations to these restaurants, and will be presenting each establishment with a framed certificate from the Illinois Department of Public Health. To view a complete listing of smoke-free restaurants in LaSalle County, visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org. To qualify, restaurants must not allow smoking in any part of the facility. To request pamphlets on smoke-free dining or for more information on the Illinois Smoke-Free Restaurant Recognition Program, please contact the Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

###

To Index

2004

VACCINE SHORTAGE

Vaccination is Not the Only Way to Help Prevent the Flu

You can still protect yourself from the flu even if you are not included in a priority group for the flu season this year, or if no vaccines are available. These simple actions can stop the spread of germs and help protect you from getting sick:

- ▶ **Avoid close contact.**
Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- ▶ **Stay home when you are sick.**
If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- ▶ **Cover your mouth and nose.**
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- ▶ **Clean your hands.**
Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.
- ▶ **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.**
Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Other good habits, such as **getting plenty of sleep**, engaging in **physical activity**, **managing stress**, **drinking water**, and **eating good food**, will help you stay healthy in the winter and all year.

Department of Health
and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention



For more information, ask your healthcare provider or call the CDC Immunization Hotline
English **800-232-2522** — Español **800-232-0233** Website **www.cdc.gov/flu**

To Index

**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
DECEMBER 2, 2004**

NEWS RELEASE

“WORLD AIDS AWARENESS”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL -- The seventeenth annual observance of World AIDS Day was commemorated on December 1, 2004. World AIDS Day aims to increase awareness through December by bringing awareness to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and globally. Over forty million persons worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS has become one of the major health problems to emerge in the past 25 years. In the U.S. there are approximately 40,000 new infections per year. In Illinois, there have been 30,971 reported cases of AIDS since 1981. Illinois has the sixth highest total of AIDS cases in the nation. Throughout the world, almost 6,000 young people ages 15-24 are infected each day with HIV. Without a vaccine or cure, it is estimated by 2010 there will be 100 million persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

Increased knowledge of the disease and improved diagnostic and treatment methods have led to significant advances in the clinical management of HIV and a delay in the progression from HIV to AIDS, and thus, individuals receiving treatment in the U.S. are living longer.

In the role of prevention, it is important for individuals to know their HIV status since many individuals remain free of clinical signs for months to years. HIV is spread by the exchange of blood, semen, or vaginal secretions between individuals. The most common routes of transmission are 1) having unprotected sex with an infected person, 2) sharing drug injection equipment with an infected person, and 3) from mother to infant at the time of birth or through breastfeeding.

LaSalle County Health Department offers free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling services to individuals at risk who are over 12. Individuals may call 815-433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243 to schedule an appointment. For more information you can also visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

November 15, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“High-Risk Individuals Still in Need of Flu Vaccination Are Encouraged to Contact Their Physician”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will no longer be offering any flu clinics for high-risk individuals. Any additional vaccine the Health Department receives will be distributed to local physicians. Individuals still in need of a flu shot should contact your local physician to see if they have vaccine available. By distributing the vaccine through the medical community, area residents who are considered to be high-risk who have been unable to obtain a flu shot, should be able to receive one through their physician..

Those considered to be at high-risk for flu-related complications include:

- *all children aged 6-23 months
- *adults aged 65 and older
- *persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- *all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- *children aged 6 months- 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- *health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- *out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children of <6 months

The LaSalle County Health Department does have the pneumonia vaccine available with a physicians order. If you need a pneumonia shot call the Health Department to schedule an appointment. If you would like more information on influenza, you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

November 3, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Health Department No Longer Taking Names of High-Risk Individuals”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department has depleted their supply of flu vaccine. Therefore, we are no longer taking names and phone numbers of high-risk individuals in need of the flu vaccination. Health Department staff does not anticipate receiving additional vaccine this year, however, if vaccine becomes available staff will contact LaSalle County physicians.

The LaSalle County Health Department recommends prevention to lessen your chances of developing the flu. Adults and children need to practice good basic hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. It is also important to avoid exposing your children to high-risk areas, such as heavily trafficked public areas. Parents are encouraged to keep children exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms home and out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

The LaSalle County Health Department does have the pneumonia vaccine available with a physicians order. If you need a pneumonia shot call the Health Department to schedule an appointment. If you would like more information on influenza, you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

November 1, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Health Department Hold First High-Risk Flu Vaccination Clinic”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL - On Saturday, October 30, 2004 the LaSalle County Health Department held its first drive-thru flu clinic for high-risk individuals. These individuals were previously identified as high-risk individuals by using the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and through a physicians order. LaSalle County Health Department received the vaccine on Friday and quickly mobilized staff to organize the high-risk clinic. After the arrival of the vaccine, staff notified individuals by phone.

The flu vaccine received by the Health Department was secured through the Illinois Public Health Association Consortium. The Health Department originally ordered 2000 doses from Chiron, however, due to potential contamination issues, the original order was not shipped. The Illinois Public Health Association Consortium negotiated with the CDC and Aventis to provide half of our original order.

The Health Department decided to hold a drive-thru clinic as opposed to a traditional clinic in order to better serve the elderly and mobility impaired population. Health Department staff would like to thank the LaSalle County Board, LaSalle County Board of Health, LaSalle County Sheriff's Department, LaSalle County Highway Department, and the Ottawa Police Department for all their help and support. We would also like to thank the general public for their patience and understanding during the flu vaccine shortage.

The LaSalle County Health Department is still encouraging high-risk individuals to contact the department if they are seeking a flu vaccination. If you would like more information on influenza, you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

October 28, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Health Department Taking Names of High-Risk Individuals in Need of Flu Vaccination”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department is still encouraging high-risk individuals to contact the department if they are still seeking a flu vaccination.

Those considered to be at high-risk for flu-related complications include:

*all children aged 6-23 months

*adults aged 65 and older

*persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions

*all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season

*children aged 6 months- 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy

*health-care workers involved in direct patient care

*out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children of <6 months

High-risk individuals will be placed on a list and will be contacted, upon vaccine availability, with a clinic date and time. Please call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to leave your information.

#

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

October 8, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Fifth Case of West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – A fifth confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is a 45-year old female who did require hospitalization. LaSalle County Health Department previously confirmed four human cases in the county. The cases were:

- A 38-year old female who did not require hospitalization
- A 74-year old male who is hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis
- A 52-year old male who did not require hospitalization
- A 88-year old female who did require hospitalization

The virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, but a few individuals may develop a more severe form of the disease. Serious illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

So far this year, a total of nine (9) crows in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus. The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using

repellents on young children.

- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Hospitals and infectious disease physicians have been notified of the increase in detection of birds and mosquitoes with West Nile virus and reminded to order tests for arbovirus infections (including St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, as well as West Nile encephalitis) for patients with appropriate symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows or blue jays to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, LaSalle and Streator areas. At this time health department staff is collecting crows or blue jays from the Marseilles, Seneca, and Mendota areas. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2004" under surveillance.

#

[To Index](#)

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

NEWS RELEASE

“Flu Clinics Cancelled”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL—LaSalle County Health Department flu clinics have been cancelled and or suspended. We are continuing to work to secure vaccine but do not anticipate receiving enough vaccine to vaccinate NON high-risk individuals. The flu is potentially deadly, especially among the elderly and high-risk individuals. For this reason we are asking that healthy people defer getting a flu shot to ensure that high-risk individuals are able to be vaccinated.

Those considered equally high-risk are:

- * all children aged 6-23 months
- * adults aged 65 years and older
- * persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- * all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- * residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- * children aged 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- * health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- * out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 month

The LaSalle County Health Department recommends prevention to lessen your chances of developing the flu. Adults and children need to practice good basic hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. We also recommend you avoid exposing your children to high-risk areas, such as heavily trafficked public areas. Parents are also encouraged to keep children exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms home and out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

The LaSalle County Health Department does have the pneumonia vaccine available with a physicians order. If you need a pneumonia shot call the Health Department to schedule an appointment. If you would like more information on influenza, you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#

[To Index](#)

To Index

**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

OCTOBER 5, 2004

N E W S R E L E A S E

“Flu Vaccine Shortage ”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL -- Due to the sudden and unexpected shortage of available flu vaccine, LaSalle County Health Department is unable to guarantee availability of vaccine. LaSalle County Health Department regrets that it is unable to guarantee that flu clinics will proceed as scheduled. LaSalle County Health Department in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health is aggressively working to secure sufficient vaccine for LaSalle County residents.

We are on a waiting list with Adventis Pasteur, the only other company that makes Flu Zone vaccine. We are being as proactive as we can to secure vaccine for LaSalle County. Due to recent events all clinics will be held contingent upon LaSalle County Health Department receiving vaccine. We have times and dates scheduled for flu vaccine clinics, we recommend you call the Health Department 24 hours before the clinic to see if it is still available. Information will be updated and posted on the LaSalle County Health Department website as it becomes available. The website is www.lasallecounty.org under Health Department.

#

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

September 30, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Ninth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found September 24th in LaSalle has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, clogged rain gutters and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, LaSalle, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time, health department staff is collecting crows and blue jays from the Marseilles, Seneca, and Mendota areas.

For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

###

To Index

LaSalle County Health Department Influenza Vaccine Clinic Schedule Fall 2004

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Fee: \$15.00 for Influenza Vaccine*
\$20.00 for Pneumococcal Vaccine**

Area clinic schedules:

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366
(800) 247-5243

No Appointment Needed

Cost: \$15.00

Medicare will be billed for persons who receive the Influenza vaccine and show Medicare Part B eligibility. NO Doctor's order is needed for clients age 18 & older. **Children 6 months through 17 years requesting Influenza vaccination will be required to have a Doctor's order and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A Doctor's order is also required for all pregnant women.**

Pneumonia vaccine will be available at each clinic.

Cost: \$20.00

A Doctor's order is required. A receipt is available upon request for submission to private insurances. Medicare will be billed for those eligible.

MARSEILLES

Monday - October 25,
2004
9:00AM - 12:00PM
Rutland Township Hall
2835 East 24th Road,
Marseilles



OTTAWA

Thursday – October 21,
2004
2:30PM - 4:30PM
Ravlin Congregate Center
400 E. Washington Street,
Ottawa

SENECA

Monday - October 25,
2004
2:00PM - 5:00PM
Seneca High School
307 East Scott, Seneca



OTTAWA

Wednesday - October 27,
2004
2:00PM – 6:30PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
401 W. Main St., Ottawa

STREATOR

Wednesday- October 20,
2004
8:30AM - 11:00AM
Knights of Columbus Hall
800 Oakley Avenue,
Streator



OTTAWA

Thursday- November 4,
2004
12:30PM – 3:00PM
Governmental Complex -
Jury Room
707 Etna Road, Lower
Level, Ottawa

STREATOR

Monday - November 1,

SANDWICH

2004
1:30PM - 4:00PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
800 Oakley Avenue,
Streator



Thursday- October 28,
2004
3:00PM - 6:00PM
Wildwood Communities
One Birch Drive, Sandwich

***A doctors order is required for children up to the age of 18.**

****Pneumococcal Vaccine is available at all Influenza Vaccine Clinics.**
A doctors order is required for this vaccine.

[Immunization Home Page](#) | [To Personal Health Division Home](#)

[To Index](#)

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 6350
433-3366**

September 30, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Flu Clinics to begin in October”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA,IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will sponsor several influenza vaccination clinics throughout the county. The fee for a flu vaccination this year will be \$15. Medicare will be billed for Medicare part B eligible clients and Public Aid will be billed for those eligible clients receiving the vaccine. October and November are typically the best months to be vaccinated because influenza activity in the U.S. generally peaks between late December and early March. The flu vaccine is especially recommended for the following individuals:

- All persons aged 50 or over
- Residents of nursing homes
- Adults and children with chronic heart and lung disease (such as asthma)
- Diabetics
- Health care Providers
- Pregnant women
- Healthy Children aged 6 months to 23 months and their household contacts

A Doctors order is required for pregnant women and children aged 6 months to 17 years old. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Influenza, commonly called the flu, is caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract. Typically, symptoms of flu infection include fever, chills, and respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, and extreme fatigue. The flu is spread easily from person to person, often when an infected person coughs or sneezes and the virus enters another person’s body through the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth. For most, the flu lingers for a week or two and then they recover. For others, the flu can cause serious and potentially life-threatening medical complications, such as

pneumonia.

Influenza vaccine contains three strains that represent the flu viruses likely to circulate in the United States in the upcoming winter. This year vaccine will include A/Fujian/411/2002, A/New Caledonia/20/99, and B/ Shanghai/361/2002-like strains. The vaccine is highly purified and non-infectious so a person cannot get the flu from the vaccine.

The flu vaccine, which is recommended every year, does not always protect a person from getting the flu. It is 70 to 90 percent effective in preventing influenza among healthy adults, but for those who still get the flu, the symptoms are milder than in those who have not been immunized.

This is also a good time for certain individuals to get a pneumonia shot. They must check with their physicians to see if one is recommended. Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) which can cause serious infections. These infections include pneumonia, and meningitis and can be prevented by getting a “Pneumonia shot”. People who should get a pneumonia shot include:

- All persons aged 65 and older
- Adults and children with chronic illnesses of heart, lung, kidney, or liver
- Diabetics
- All persons with a weak immune system caused by HIV, cancer, organ transplant, immunosuppressive medicine such as corticosteroids, or splenectomy

A pneumonia shot is usually necessary only once for those over the age of 65. For those under 65 with a chronic illness it is recommended that it be repeated once after five years. People should get the shot even if they have had a pneumonia illness in the past.

The pneumonia vaccine will be available at all of the flu clinic sites. A physician’s order is required. There will be a \$20 fee for the shot. Medicare will be billed for Medicare part B eligible clients. A receipt can be given upon request for those who would like to submit it to their insurance company. The flu/pneumonia clinic sites are as follows: (see attached pages)

###

[To Index](#)

To Index

**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

September 28, 2004

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the LaSalle County Health Department would like to inform everyone that through our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program grant we can pay for mammograms and pap tests for those women who qualify. If you are a LaSalle or Grundy County resident between the ages of 35 -64, and are of low to moderate income, call 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243 to see if you qualify.

Low income women die from breast and cervical cancer more often than other women. These high mortality rates are attributed in part, to the fact that these women generally do not receive regular mammograms and Pap tests. As a result, cancers are diagnosed at later stages when it is more difficult to treat and the chances for survival are less.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to increase breast and cervical cancer awareness and break that cycle for some women by providing free mammograms and pap tests. Through breast self-examinations, mammograms, and pap smears, you can greatly reduce your risk of breast or cervical cancer. We do not yet know what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it, the best protection is to detect it as early as possible and treat it promptly. Don't hesitate, call 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243 now to see if you qualify or would like more information visit the **personal health** page on our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

###

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 27, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Fourth Case of West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – A fourth confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is an 88-year old female who did require hospitalization. LaSalle County Health Department previously confirmed three human cases in the county. The cases were:

- A 38-year old female who did not require hospitalization
- A 74-year old male who is hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis
- A 52-year old male who did not require hospitalization

The virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, but a few individuals may develop a more severe form of the disease. Serious illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

So far this year, a total of eight (8) crows in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using repellents on young children.

- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Hospitals and infectious disease physicians have been notified of the increase in detection of birds and mosquitoes with West Nile virus and reminded to order tests for arbovirus infections (including St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, as well as West Nile encephalitis) for patients with appropriate symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows or blue jays to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time health department staff is collecting crows or blue jays from the Marseilles, Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle areas. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2004" under surveillance.

###

To Index

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

September 16, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Eighth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found September 10th in Peru has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, clogged rain gutters and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time, health department staff is collecting crows and blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle areas. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

###

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 14, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Third Case of West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – A third confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is a 52-year old male who did not require hospitalization. LaSalle County Health Department previously confirmed two human cases in the county. The cases were:

- A 38-year old female who did not require hospitalization
- A 74-year old male who is hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis

The virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, but a few individuals may develop a more severe form of the disease. Serious illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

So far this year, a total of seven (7) crows in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using repellents on young children.
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.

- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Hospitals and infectious disease physicians have been notified of the increase in detection of birds and mosquitoes with West Nile virus and reminded to order tests for arbovirus infections (including St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, as well as West Nile encephalitis) for patients with appropriate symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows or blue jays to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time health department staff is collecting crows or blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle-Peru areas. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2004" under surveillance.

###

[To Index](#)

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 13, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms Second Human Case of West Nile Virus”

OTTAWA, IL – A confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is a 74-year old male who is hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis. On August 30, 2004 the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed in a 38-year old female by county health officials. The virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, but a few individuals may develop a more severe form of the disease. Serious illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

So far this year, a total of seven (7) crows in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using repellents on young children.
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Hospitals and infectious disease physicians have been notified of the increase in detection of birds and mosquitoes with West Nile virus and reminded to order tests for arbovirus infections (including St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, as well as West Nile encephalitis) for patients with appropriate symptoms. If

you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows or blue jays to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time health department staff is collecting crows or blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle-Peru areas. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2004" under surveillance.

###

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

September 7, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Seventh Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found September 1st in Peru has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, Peru, and Streator areas. At this time, health department staff is collecting crows and blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle-Peru areas. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallemounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

###

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

September 2, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Sixth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found August 24th in Dayton Township has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, and Streator areas. At this time, health department staff is collecting crows and blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle-Peru areas. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#

To Index

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

September 2, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Two Bats Test Positive for Rabies in LaSalle County”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 815-433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661

OTTAWA, IL – Due to continuing evidence that bats are the primary carrier of rabies in Illinois, the LaSalle County Health Department and LaSalle County Animal Control are reminding the public to avoid contact with bats.

According to the LaSalle County Animal Control Administrator, “bats become more active and contact with humans is a greater possibility in late summer and early fall. It is best never to approach a bat, and if one is found in a home or building, people should not touch the bat and contact LaSalle County Animal Control or their local police department for assistance in removing it.”

Currently, thirty-four (34) bats have tested positive for rabies in Illinois. LaSalle County Health Department officials have experienced an increase in the number of calls from people who have encountered bats and are requesting advice. In addition, the LaSalle County Animal Control recently received reports indicating that two bats submitted from LaSalle County tested positive for rabies. The bats were submitted from the Streator and Utica areas.

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals, and is transmitted from the bite of an infected animal or if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva or brain tissue, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth or an open wound, such as an abrasion, scrape, or cut. The rabies virus cannot be spread through the urine, feces, or blood of a bat. **Rabies is a fatal disease if anti-rabies treatment is not administered before symptoms begin.** LaSalle County Health Department officials have recommended post-exposure treatment for four individuals who have experienced a potential exposure. Post-exposure treatment is a 5 to 6 dose vaccination series given over a 30-day period. There is an average of one or two cases of rabies in the United States each year, but no human cases have occurred in Illinois since 1954.

Any wild mammal, like a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote or bat, can have rabies and transmit it to people. Changes in the animal’s normal behavior, difficulty with walking, or an overall appearance of illness can be early signs of rabies. The animal does not need to be foaming at the mouth or exhibiting

rabies symptoms. Specifically, bats that are active during the day, found in a place where bats are not usually seen, such as lawn or home, or is unable to fly is more likely to be rabid. These bats are often very easy to approach, but should never be handled.

The following tips from the Illinois Department of Public Health should be followed to prevent the spread of rabies:

Be a responsible pet owner:

- Keep vaccinations up-to-date for all dogs, cats, and ferrets. This requirement is important to not only keep your pets from getting rabies, but also to provide a barrier of protection for you, if your animal is bitten by a rabid animal.
- Keep your pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal or exposed to a bat, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately.
- Call your local animal control agency or local police department to remove stray animals in your neighborhood.
- Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or regularly vaccinated.

Avoid direct contact with unfamiliar animals:

- Enjoy wild animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes) from afar. Do not handle, feed or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. Call animal control or a veterinarian for assistance.
- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild, or domestic, even if they appear friendly. “Love your own, leave other animals alone” is a good principle for children to learn.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people or pets.

For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661. Additional information is available on the LaSalle County Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

###

[To Index](#)

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

August 30, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms First Case of West Nile Virus in LaSalle County”

OTTAWA, IL – A confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is a 38-year old female who did not require hospitalization. The virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, but a few individuals may develop a more severe form of the disease. Serious illness is most often present in individuals 50 years of age or older. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

So far this year, a total of five (5) crows in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using repellents on young children.
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Hospitals and infectious disease physicians have been notified of the increase in detection of birds and mosquitoes with West Nile virus and reminded to order tests for arbovirus infections (including St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, as well as West Nile encephalitis) for patients with appropriate symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing.

During the spring and summer months, the LaSalle County Health Department extended outreach efforts to all city, municipal, village, and township officials in the county. By June 1, 2004 health department staff had distributed over 10,000 information packets regarding West Nile virus. Information packets were distributed to local hospitals, medical centers, nursing homes, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, pet shelters, campgrounds, daycares, libraries, and pool supply companies.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows or blue jays to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Currently, crows have been collected from the Ottawa, Leland, and Streator areas. At this time health department staff is collecting crows or blue jays from the Seneca, Mendota, and LaSalle-Peru areas. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2004" under surveillance.

###

To Index

[To Index](#)

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

August 19, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

"Twelfth Annual Food Service Seminar September 13th"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie at 433-3366

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department will be sponsoring their Twelfth Annual Food Service Seminar on September 13, 2004. The seminar will be held at Pitstick Pavilion, Rt. 23, Ottawa. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12:15 p.m. Speakers include Guy Rallo from The Safe Dining Association who will discuss the topic of food security, Connie Brooks from the LaSalle County Health Department will present a program entitled "The Meat We Eat", Daniel Ferretti from Orkin Exterminating Company, Inc. will present information on Pest Control, and Evelyn Nevear and Jerry Maloney with Tazewell County Health Department will provide information on HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point). For more information or to pre-register, call the LaSalle County Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

###

[To Index](#)

To Index

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366**

August 3, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Fifth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found July 29th in Ottawa has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

###

To Index

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

July 30, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Fourth Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found July 28th in Leland has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

July 29, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Third Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found July 25th in Ottawa has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department’s West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#

LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

July 14, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

“Second Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found July 12th in Streator has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366. Birds submitted for testing should be “eligible birds” that have no obvious cause of death such as being found crushed in a roadway and most likely killed by a motor vehicle, or birds killed by a gunshot. Birds submitted should be believed to be dead for less than 48 hours. Birds should only be submitted if they are not decomposed and if they have not been damaged by scavenging animals. Decomposed animals can be recognized as having a strong odor present, eyes deflated or dried, maggots present or have bloating from decomposition gases. If a bird is found during the weekend the Health Department is recommending the public wear gloves while placing the bird into a double plastic bag. The bird should be stored in a refrigerator or cooler until Monday morning, at that time the Health Department should be called.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET according to label directions. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

For more information on West Nile virus and LaSalle County’s current listing of the positive

humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses, access the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us or people can call the Department's West Nile virus hotline (866-369-9710) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#

[To Index](#)

To Index

**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

July 9, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

"Hospital Task Force Holds Tabletop Exercise"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL - On Wednesday, June 30, 2004 a tabletop exercise was conducted among health care and emergency response agencies. The overall goal of this exercise was to coordinate resources such as staffing, communication systems, incident command structures, and prophylaxis of critical personnel among the agencies.

The organizations that participated were Community Hospital of Ottawa (CHO), Emergency Management Agency (EMA), for LaSalle County, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Illinois Valley Community Hospital (IVCH), LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD), Mendota Community Hospital (MCH), and St. Mary's Hospital (SMH).

The exercise was a benchmark event among the county's four hospitals and health department. This was an opportunity for many organizations to test the coordinated communication process that was developed between the organizations, and provided a networking resource in emergency preparedness planning.

CHO hosted the exercise and there was a member of each organization on the design team. LaSalle County Health Department and the hospitals teamed up to develop a Hospital Task Force three years ago to coordinate and mitigate health care issues for the residents of LaSalle County against a potential bioterrorist event or large-scale communicable disease outbreak. A critique was completed by the design team using each participants input from the experience.

Each participant plans to use information from the critique to update internal plans and procedures as needed.

#

To Index

