

Mosquito Control Update September 30, 2015

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DH) recently informed the District of a confirmed human case of West Nile virus. This case is the second human case for the year in St. Tammany Parish. The onset of the illness was September 7, so the individual was bitten by an infected mosquito sometime between August 25 and September 2. The location of the case is in west Slidell but out of the city limits. This is an area where the District had detected West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes at several locations in the area over a period of several weeks. Positive mosquito pools were last detected in the area on August 11. Much emphasis in terms of larval and adult mosquito control had been directed in the area for the past several months. It was a little surprising to learn of the human case in that area in consideration of all the effort that has been directed to reducing the risk of West Nile virus.

Over the past five weeks, only two positive mosquito pools have returned positive for West Nile virus out of 510 sampled. These data indicate that the risk is low for human contraction of West Nile virus.

The District continues to place emphasis on controlling the southern house mosquito, the primary vector for West Nile virus by spraying the roadside ditches where they breed and conducting aerial and ground adulticiding operations.