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## PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media  
FROM: Marquette County Health Department  
CONTACT: Patrick L. Jacuzzo, Director of Environmental Health  
DATE: June 18, 2018  
SUBJECT: West Nile Virus Positive Crow

Laboratory testing has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in a crow found in Marquette County this month. The presence of WNV has been established in Michigan since 2001 and has been known to be present in mosquito populations in Marquette County.

West Nile Virus is spread through mosquito bites.

Symptoms of WNV occur three to fifteen days after becoming infected from a mosquito bite and include fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes skin rash and/or swollen glands. In rare cases, the virus may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, which can be fatal or cause permanent damage. People experiencing symptoms consistent with WNV should contact their health care provider.

The risk of contracting WNV can be lowered through basic mosquito prevention measures:

- Using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents.
- Wearing protective clothing such as hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants when outdoors.
- Using mosquito netting over strollers, cribs, beds, and when sleeping outside.
- Installing effective window screening in homes.
- Eliminating standing water around the outside of your home to reduce mosquito breeding habitat.

For more information on West Nile virus, individuals can visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>

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To request an interview please call 906-475-9977