



# LaSalle County Health Department

## News Releases 2003



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

December 5, 2003

**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

**“Preventative Measures for Influenza”**

Ottawa, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that it has completed all of our scheduled influenza “flu” clinics and regret we no longer have any vaccine. We have tried to obtain more vaccine, but unfortunately we have not been successful. At this time the LaSalle County Health Department is stressing prevention techniques to lesson your chances of contracting the flu.

Influenza is a virus that is spread from person to person through respiratory secretions (coughing) and nasal secretions. Compared to most viruses that cause upper respiratory illnesses, like the common cold, influenza viruses cause a more severe illness that is more likely to cause serious medical complications such as pneumonia. Influenza is most common during the colder months of the year, typically peaking between January and March.

Symptoms of the flu include fever- often with chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue. Respiratory symptoms are cough, sore throat, and a runny or stuffy nose. Although nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can sometimes accompany the flu in children, it is not common in adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children are particularly susceptible to influenza because their bodies have not previously been exposed to the virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. To lesson your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good basic hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering the 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. If you would like more information on influenza, you can contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or visit our web site at [www.lasallecounty.org](http://www.lasallecounty.org).

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**717 ETNA ROAD**  
**OTTAWA, IL 61350**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2003**

**WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1, 2003**

The sixteenth annual observance of World AIDS Day will be on December 1, 2003. The purpose of recognizing this commemorative day is to bring 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 HIV infections per year. 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 before or 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.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
717 ETNA ROAD  
OTTAWA, IL 61350  
NOVEMBER 21, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**"WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1, 2003"**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

**OTTAWA, IL** -- The sixteenth annual observance of World AIDS Day will be commemorated on December 1, 2003. World AIDS Day aims to increase awareness by educating, advocating and collaborating globally and in the U.S. to reduce the stigma surrounding HIV. The goal is to increase the amount of people who are at risk to obtain HIV testing services. As of November 2003, LaSalle County has had 64 reported cumulative cases of AIDS since reporting began in 1981. All communities are affected by the continuing spread of AIDS.

World AIDS Day will link communities throughout the United States in a unified observance when the White House dims its lights on the evening of Dec. 1 st. Here in LaSalle County, this memorial will be Observed by a display in the Health Department's lobby during the month of December. There will also be a Christmas tree decorated at the Peru Mall commemorating this important day. The LaSalle County Health Department encourages everyone in the community to wear a red ribbon during December to symbolize support of HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

The LaSalle County Health Department offers free anonymous HIV testing and counseling services to anyone 12 years of age or older who feels he or she may be at risk. Those who would be considered at risk include the following; those who have had unprotected sex with multiple partners, those who inject drugs (which includes steroids) and share needles, partners of injecting drug users, anyone engaging in tattoo or ear/body piercing "parties", men who have had unprotected sex with men, and any individual who has exchanged sex for money, food, shelter, etc.. The Health Department offers the OraSure test, so a blood draw is not necessary.

To schedule an appointment to be tested or for more information, call Sue at the LaSalle County Health Department 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins will be tested when possible.

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

**October 9, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“Seventh Bird in LaSalle County Test 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 blue jay found October 1<sup>st</sup> in Somonauk has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. On September 8, 2003 the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed by county health officials. 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.

The mosquito season will continue until there is a sustained, hard frost that usually occurs in late October, therefore the following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, 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.

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](http://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](http://www.idph.state.il.us).

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

**September 30, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“Three More Birds in LaSalle County Test 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 crows found September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Streator and a blue jay found September 24<sup>th</sup> in Seneca have tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. On September 8, 2003 the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed by county health officials.

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 mosquito season will continue until there is a sustained, hard frost that usually occurs in late October, therefore the following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease:

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, 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.

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](http://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](http://www.idph.state.il.us).

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

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“GENETICS CLINIC OFFERED”**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

OTTAWA, IL—Wondering about your family tree? Genetic counseling can help.

The LaSalle County Health Department will be hosting a Genetics Clinic here at the Health Department on October 30, 2003. Clients attending the clinic will be seen by Dr. George Hoganson, MD, a medical geneticist with the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and a genetic counselor. Anyone who wishes to be seen **must call to schedule an appointment.**

Clients who may need genetic counseling may include, but are not limited to, those who have a family history of birth defects, cancer, cleft lip/palate, and adult onset conditions, known genetic conditions or chromosome disorders.

Genetic counselors do not recommend whether or not couples should have children. The couples can only make such decisions themselves. For more information on our genetics clinic, or to schedule an appointment call 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243 and speak to Colleen at ext. 248. Genetics information is also available by visiting the **personal health** page on our website at [www.lasallecounty.org](http://www.lasallecounty.org).

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

**September 26, 2003**

**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](http://www.lasallecounty.org).

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

**September 24, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“LaSalle County Health Department On the Web”**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

**OTTAWA, IL** – The LaSalle County Health Department is pleased to announce their web site is now available. The site can be accessed at [www.lasallecounty.org](http://www.lasallecounty.org). The web site contains beneficial information for the citizens of LaSalle County. The site is user-friendly and a brief description of the programs offered at the Health Department is available. A variety of information regarding current health issues can be accessed as well. Health Department officials encourage the public to view the web site for up-to-date health information. For questions, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366.

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

**September 22, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“LaSalle County Flu Clinics to begin in October”**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS;** contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie 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 \$13. 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 beyond the 14<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy
- (Children 6 months through 17 years old will be required to have a Doctor's order)

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's vaccine will include A/Moscow/10/99, A/New Caledonia/20/99, and B/ Hong Kong/330/2001-like strains. The vaccine is inactivated 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)

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

**September 18, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“Third Bird 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 15<sup>th</sup> in Sandwich has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. On September 8, 2003 the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed by county health officials.

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:

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 25 percent to 35 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.

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](http://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](http://www.idph.state.il.us).

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

**September 12, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“Second Bird 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 8<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. On September 8, 2003 the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed by county health officials.

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:

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 25 percent to 35 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.

A complete listing of the positive humans, birds, mosquito batches, and horses identified so far in Illinois, by county, is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us).

[See Vector Program for more information.](#)

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

**September 8, 2003**

**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 encephalitis has been identified in LaSalle County. An 83-year old female is hospitalized. The virus causes 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.

In addition, LaSalle County Health Department received notification that a crow submitted on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- Whenever outdoors between dusk and dawn, 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, 2003 health department staff had distributed 6,000 information packets regarding West Nile virus. Information packets were distributed to local hospitals, medical centers, nursing homes, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, pet shelters, campgrounds, 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 crow or blue jay to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified so far in Illinois, by county, is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us). Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2003" under surveillance.

[See Vector Program for more information.](#)

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

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**“NEW PROSTATE AND TESTICULAR CANCER GRANT”**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

**OTTAWA, IL** – The LaSalle County Health Department is pleased to announce that we have again received the Illinois Prostate and Testicular Cancer Education and Awareness Program Grant. The Health Department will be receiving \$27,500. to support awareness, screening, and early detection of prostate and testicular cancer among eligible men. Funding for this project is made possible by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The LaSalle County Health Department’s goal is to improve the length and quality of men’s lives by early detection. The Health Department will be targeting those men who are 50 years and older, and are uninsured or under insured. According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer affects 1 in 9 men and is most common in African Americans, men over 50, and men with a family history. It causes roughly 37,000 deaths a year. Annual testing is the best way to detect prostate cancer and can greatly improve your chance for a complete recovery.

In September, the LaSalle County Health Department will be co-sponsoring Prostate screening clinics with local hospitals. This is a one-day clinic and registration is required. Please contact your local hospital for an appointment. St. Margaret’s Hospital #664-1613, Illinois Valley Community Hospital #780-3337, Mendota Community Hospital #539-1411, the Community Hospital of Ottawa #431-5441, and St. Mary’s Hospital #673-2311.

For more information on prostate or testicular cancer, or to see if you qualify for our free screening, contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243.

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

**August 19, 2003**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**"Eleventh Annual Food Service Seminar September 8th"**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

**Ottawa, IL** - The LaSalle County Health Department will be sponsoring their Eleventh Annual Food Service Seminar on September 8, 2003. 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 Tim Baietto from Quick-Kill Pest Eliminators who will discuss the topic of pest control, Karey Terselic of U.S. Food Service will present information on HACCP, Jamie Burns from the Illinois Department of Public Health Training and Resource Center will be presenting "The Fish Story", and Connie Brooks from the LaSalle County Health Department will present information on Norovirus.

For more information or to pre-register, call the LaSalle County Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

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