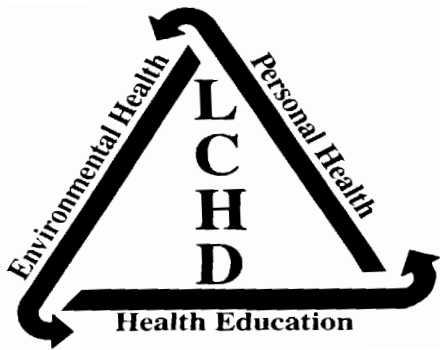


## MEDIA RELEASE



Date: August 9, 2023  
To: All Media  
From: LaSalle County Health Department  
717 Etna Road  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)  
Phone: (815) 433-3366  
**For Immediate Release**

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### **" Health Department Offers Free Larvicide to Property Owners Looking to Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites. Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile virus in Peru."**

**Ottawa, IL** – With an increase in West Nile virus activity this season, the LaSalle County Health Department has utilized grant funding to purchase NATULAR® DT, a mosquito larvicide that controls larvae of mosquitoes for up to 60 days. Manufactured by Clarke, Natular® DT is an easy-to-use, bi-layer tablet that prevents mosquito breeding in standing water sites around yards. The Health Department encourages anyone who needs larvicide for their property to stop by the Health Department (717 Etna Rd. Ottawa – 8:00 a.m.-4:30p.m.) to pick up a package of NATULAR® DT. Each package contains 12 tablets.

At this time, **supplies are limited to one per household**. According to Clarke, NATULAR® DT tablets can be applied in many spots around a yard or property that hold water but cannot be easily tipped out. Common mosquito breeding sites around a property, especially for disease-carrying mosquitoes, only require very small amounts of water to breed. The NATULAR® DT tablets can be used to treat the following:

- Boat covers
- Floor drains
- Flower pot trays
- Ornamental ponds & water gardens
- Old and abandoned tires
- Rain barrels
- Roof top gutters
- Standing water

According to Jennie Osborn, Director of Environmental Health, "LaSalle County has been experiencing the type of weather conditions that increases West Nile virus activity. Dry, hot weather tends to accelerate the transmission of the virus during the summer and fall months. The best way to protect yourself against illness is to wear insect repellent and to get rid of any stagnant water around your home to reduce the number of mosquitoes."

Additionally, the LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that mosquitoes from Peru tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquitoes were collected on August 9<sup>th</sup> and Environmental Health

staff conducted the confirmatory test on the mosquitoes at the Health Department. To date, the following West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes has been documented for 2023:

To date, the following West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes has been documented for 2023:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date Collected</u>	<u>Animal/Insect</u>
MARSEILLES	06/2/2023	MOSQUITOES
LASALLE	06/27/2023	MOSQUITOES
LASALLE	6/27/2023	MOSQUITOES
UTICA	07/12/2023	MOSQUITOES
OTTAWA	7/21/2023	MOSQUITOES
LASALLE	7/25/2023	CROW
OTTAWA	7/27/2023	MOSQUITOES
OTTAWA	7/27/2023	MOSQUITOES
LASALLE	8/3/2023	MOSQUITOES
PERU	8/9/2023	MOSQUITOES

Fight the Bite by following the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, old tires, stagnant pools, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department’s web site at [www.lasallecountyil.gov](http://www.lasallecountyil.gov) under Environmental Health/Vector Control. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>. For questions, please call the Health Department at 815-433-3366. ###

SEE ATTACHED PHOTO of Natular® DT tablets  
[www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth](https://www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth)  
[www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth](https://www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth)  
[www.lasallecountyil.gov](http://www.lasallecountyil.gov)