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PRESS RELEASE – 2021 Mosquito Season

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2021

Kankakee County Health Department Prepares for 2021 Mosquito Season

It is mosquito season, and Kankakee County Health Department (KCHD) will again be monitoring its mosquito population this year for the presence of West Nile virus (WNV). Mosquito trapping and testing and bird collection will be conducted. Eligible birds are those that have been dead for less than 48 hours with no signs of decomposition or trauma. Priority birds include crows, blue jays, house finches, house sparrow, robins, and other perching birds.

West Nile virus reemerges every summer and occurs mainly around urban and suburban areas. While the presence of WNV is not usually seen in Kankakee County until mid to late summer, KCHD urges residents to start preparing now.

Residents are encouraged to follow the 3 Rs:

- (1) **Remove** opportunities for mosquitoes to breed by eliminating standing water sites around your home.
- (2) **Repel** mosquitoes with the use of insect repellent and/or by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants—especially around dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- (3) **Repair** windows and doors to prevent mosquito entry and ensure windows and doors have tightly fitted screens.

Additional information about KCHD's WNV surveillance program can be found at KCHD's website at <https://www.kankakeehealth.org>.