



Memorandum

To: FP&M Grounds Services, Building Engineers and Trades

From: Thomas A. Perez, MS, CIH
Environmental Health Manager and Biosafety Officer

Subject: Dead Birds and the West Nile Virus 2003

Date: May 30, 2003

This is the mosquito season again in Michigan and the Detroit area. The city of Detroit Health Department's Environmental Health Services has suggested that anyone who finds a dead **crow, blue jay, or raven** report the findings directly to their office. Only these types of birds are to be called into the city. The city Health Department wants to confirm birds infected with West Nile Virus in each zip code in Detroit. Once there is a bird found in Wayne State University's zip code (48202) that is confirmed to carry the virus, the city will no longer need to collect specimens. Until then, here is the procedure to follow when you find a dead (for no more than 24 hours) or dying bird on the WSU campus, as recommended by the Detroit Health Department:

1. Most importantly, **DO NOT TOUCH** the bird.
2. Call the city of Detroit's Environmental Health Services at (313) 876-4516 to report the finding. Call as soon as possible, the office closes at 4:00 PM. The city will have someone come out to collect the bird for you.
3. If you cannot be sure the dead bird is less than 24 hours old, the city has been asking whoever finds the bird to dispose of the carcass in the following way:
 - Remember, **DO NOT TOUCH** the carcass. Wear latex, rubber or canvas gloves.
 - Pick up the carcass and place it in a double-bagged garbage bag and dispose of in the garbage. Throw away your gloves in the same garbage bag.
 - If you do not want to pick up the carcass with your hands, use a shovel to scoop it into a double-bagged garbage bag.
 - The shovel should then be decontaminated with a diluted bleach/water solution (1 part bleach and 9 parts water). Let the solution air-dry.

If you find a dead bird on the weekend you can leave a message at 313-876-4516 or 888-668-0869 (Michigan Department of Community Health). Even if the dead bird is disposed of and not collected by the city of Detroit they still want it called in. The Detroit Health Department's Environmental Health Services is keeping a file to track all cases of dead crows, blue jays, ravens and grackles found within the city limits. Finally, contact OEHS at 993-7679 or 993-7597. We want to keep track of the location and number of occurrences for our files. If you have any concerns please call our office at the numbers above.

A final note: Drain all standing water from areas around campus, at least weekly, that may be a reservoir for mosquito larvae (i.e. clogged gutters, buckets, cans). Remember, mosquitoes are most active in the early morning and at dusk. It is recommended that FP&M, and especially Grounds Services, keep a supply of insect repellent, containing DEET, available for employees to use if they feel they need additional protection. Long pants and long sleeve shirts (protect and cover exposed skin) are another option, but this may not be practical for hot summer days.

If you want additional information, Grounds Services and the FP&M main office has copies of brochures on West Nile Virus the city handed out last year. You can also visit their website at: <http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us/health/default.htm> for updates on West Nile Virus and other health issues.

TAP/

cc: Lance Franklin
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