**First Chickens Positive for West Nile Virus for 2024 in Delaware**

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West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Delaware for the first time for 2024 in sentinel chickens that help the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control monitor the state for mosquito-borne illnesses, DNREC announced on July 26th, 2024. The initial WNV occurrence was found in eight sentinel chickens sampled July 22 by the DNREC Mosquito Control Section, and then tested and reported to be virus-positive by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) Laboratory July 24.

 “Encountering eight virus-positive chickens in just one week is above the typical weekly rate for our program’s WNV findings, but perhaps reflects what seems to be an active WNV season thus far this year elsewhere in the Northeast,” said Mosquito Control Section Administrator Dr. William Meredith. While there have been no reported WNV cases yet in humans for 2024 in the state, he said, Delawareans are reminded that the possibility of contracting mosquito-transmitted diseases, including WNV and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), will continue until colder autumn temperatures arrive in mid-October or later.

For the full press release, see: <https://news.delaware.gov/2024/07/26/delawares-first-2024-evidence-of-west-nile-virus-detected-in-dnrecs-sentinel-chickens/#:~:text=The%20initial%20WNV%20occurrence%20was,(DPH)%20Laboratory%20July%2024>.