

WEST NILE VIRUS

Reporting Dead Crows

The New York State Health Department is using dead crow sightings and laboratory testing of birds to help track West Nile virus. Although not all crows need to be tested, certain selected samples will be sent for testing. Please note that the dead crow, itself, cannot transmit West Nile virus to people or pets. The collection and testing of dead crows is part of an early warning system to determine whether West Nile virus is present and/or spreading in a certain area.

TO REPORT A DEAD CROW, CALL YOUR LOCAL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

You will be asked the following information about the dead crow:

- Its exact location, including street address, town and zip code. If this information is not known, be as exact as possible by providing cross streets, landmarks and town.
- The date you first observed the dead crow and its condition. Was it fresh, decomposing or damaged in some way?

Based on your answers to these questions, the local health department staff will decide whether the crow is suitable for testing.

If the local health department determines that the crow is needed for testing, it will be picked up within 36 hours. If the crow is not retrieved within 36 hours, it can be discarded. Be sure to take precautions when handling a dead crow:

- Wear thick gloves.
- Double-bag the crow.
- Bury it three feet deep or place it in the trash for removal.

The State Health Department greatly appreciates the assistance of all residents who report dead crows. This information is vital to our efforts to understand West Nile virus. For more information on West Nile virus and the "Fight the Bite" campaign, visit the department's web site at: www.health.state.ny.us.





The Broome County Health Department is using dead crow sightings and laboratory testing of crows to help track West Nile Virus. If you see a dead crow, contact the Broome County Health Department Division of Environmental Health at 607.778.2887, Option 1. Not all dead crows will be picked up or tested. If the crow has not been picked up within 36 hours, you may discard the crow.

For more information on West Nile Virus, visit the Broome County Government web site at: www.gobroomecounty.com or call the West Nile Virus Information Line at: 607.778.3911, Option 4.