National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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West Nile Virus Detected at the Carrington Tract in Fire Island National Seashore

Patchogue, NY – West Nile Virus has been detected in a mosquito sample from the Carrington Tract in Fire Island National Seashore. This is the second case in at the seashore this year, following one in Watch Hill earlier this month.

The Carrington tract is a federal tract of land between Fire Island Pines and Cherry Grove. The mosquitoes were collected on August 21 from a trap set by the seashore as part of its mosquito monitoring program. This program is a collaborative effort between the National Park Service and Suffolk County Department of Health Services – Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory that helps the park assess risk levels and select actions for public safety.

The National Park Service, along with Suffolk County, will continue its weekly surveillance program to monitor the severity and extent of West Nile Virus within the boundaries of the seashore. Consistent with the seashore's mosquito monitoring protocols, there will be increased surveillance at the Carrington Tract, where West Nile Virus was detected. If threats to human health are identified, actions to protect the public may need to include control methods such as larviciding, spraying, or area closures.

The National Park Service works closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Suffolk County Department of Health Services – Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory, Suffolk County Vector Control, and local Fire Island and Long Island municipalities to determine the best course of action to protect residents, visitors, and employees of the Seashore. The public will be notified 24 hours in advance of any spray event.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Visitors should take precautions to reduce exposure to the virus by avoiding areas with high densities of mosquitoes. If contact with mosquitoes is unavoidable, it is advisable to minimize outdoor activities when mosquitoes are active, wear protective clothing (long sleeved shirts, socks, and long pants) and use effective insect repellent, such as one containing at least 30% DEET. People most at risk of becoming ill are those over

60 years of age or whose health is impaired.

West Nile Virus was first confirmed in New York State in 1999. For general information on West Nile Virus, please contact your local health department or the CDC, New York State, or Suffolk County WNV websites. If you have information or questions for the park, please e-mail us.

For more information on Fire Island National Seashore, please visit nps.gov/fiis or call 631-569-2100. Join online conversations on Facebook and Instagram.

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