



Public Health
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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

News Release - For immediate release
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Pool of Mosquitoes Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Tuscarawas County

DOVER— The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) has been conducting trapping for the culex species of mosquito throughout the summer in Tuscarawas County. To date the Health Department has trapped and submitted over 6,000 mosquitoes to the Ohio Department of Health for testing. TCHD was notified on August 24, 2023, by the Ohio Department of Health that a pool of mosquitoes collected on August 1, 2023, at the following location has tested positive for the West Nile Virus: **7667 Blizzard Ridge Rd SE, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683.**

The Health Department will be responding to the positive pool according to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be conducting mosquito spraying within a two-mile radius of the trap location in Mill Township on the evening of Friday, August 25, 2023, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, spraying will be postponed until the evening of Monday, August 28, 2023.

Spraying will also take place in this area again in approximately 2 weeks. More information will be released at a later date.

Persons with respiratory problems should take appropriate actions to remain indoors while spraying is occurring.


West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. It is most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall. There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat WNV in people. Fortunately, most people infected with WNV do not feel sick. About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever and other symptoms.



Symptoms of West Nile Virus



Most people (8 out of 10) infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. Febrile illness (fever) is experienced by some people. About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with febrile illness due to West Nile virus recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

Prevention

Residents are encouraged to follow the following guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health to avoid mosquito bites: use insect repellent when you go outdoors, and when weather permits, wear

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long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent will provide extra protection. Take extra care during peak mosquito biting hours and take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing from dusk to dawn or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times. Ways to mosquito proof your home include the following: install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside; use your air conditioning, if you have it; and help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths on a regular basis.

Taking these steps will help protect against mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV, La Crosse Virus, and Zika Virus. For more details about the TCHD mosquito control program, please visit <https://www.tchdnow.org/mosquito-control.html> or call (330) 343-5550.

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