



Public Health
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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

News Release - For immediate release

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Second Pool of Mosquitoes Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Tuscarawas County

DOVER— The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) was notified on August 3, 2022, by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that a second pool of mosquitoes at the following location has tested positive for the West Nile Virus: **2405 Ragersville Rd. SW, Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681.**

TCHD 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. Due to the current weather forecast for Thursday and Friday of this week, TCHD will be conducting the spraying in Auburn Township, specifically around the Ragersville area, on the evening of Monday, August 8, 2022. In the event of inclement weather, spraying will be postponed. Persons with respiratory problems should take appropriate actions to remain indoors while spraying is occurring. If you would like your residence to be added to the “no spray” list, please contact TCHD at (330) 343-5550 as soon as possible.

On July 27, 2022, the Health Department was notified by ODH that a pool of mosquitoes from 11067 Fort Laurens Rd. NW, Bolivar, Ohio 44612 tested positive for the virus. Spraying was conducted on July 28, 2022.


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.

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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 long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent will provide extra protection. Take special precautions 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 a complete list of mosquito control activities completed this year by TCHD, please visit us at <https://www.tchdnow.org/mosquito-control.html> or call (330) 343-5550.

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