



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Tuscarawas County  
Health Department

News Release - For immediate release

09/12/2023

Contact: Katie Seward, MPH

Health Commissioner

330-343-5555, x1640

### **Sixth Pool of Mosquitoes Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Tuscarawas County**

DOVER— The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) was notified on September 12, 2023, by the Ohio Department of Health that a pool of mosquitoes collected on August 29, 2023, at the following location has tested positive for the West Nile Virus: **254 Fourth St., Zoar, Ohio 44697.**

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 in the Village of Zoar on the evening of Thursday, September 14, 2023. 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.


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 long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent will provide extra protection. During peak mosquito biting hours from dusk to dawn, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing 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;

 897 E. Iron Ave.  
Dover, OH 44622

 (330) 343-5555  
 (330) 343-1601

 [www.tchdnow.org](http://www.tchdnow.org)  
 [director@tchdnow.org](mailto:director@tchdnow.org)



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 mosquito control program at the Tuscarawas County Health Department, please visit <https://www.tchdnow.org/mosquito-control.html> or call (330) 343-5550.

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