



Public Health
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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

News Release—For immediate release

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More Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Tuscarawas County

DOVER— The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) was notified on August 6, 2024, by the Ohio Department of Health that three mosquito samples have tested positive for the West Nile Virus as part of TCHD's Mosquito Control Program. One of the positive mosquito samples was collected on July 24, 2024, at the following location: **9000 Camp Rd NW, Dundee**. The other two positive mosquito samples were collected on July 25, 2024, at the following locations: **5610 Lindentree Rd NE, Mineral City**, and **2673 Pleasant Valley Rd, New Philadelphia**. These positive mosquito samples bring the total to five mosquito samples with West Nile Virus detected in Tuscarawas County this season.

The Health Department will be responding to the positive test results according to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be conducting mosquito spraying in Mineral City and Fairfield Township from 8 to 11 pm on Thursday, August 8. Mosquito spraying will be conducted in Wayne Township from 8 to 11 pm on Sunday, August 11. 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. The Tuscarawas County Health Department accepts requests for no-spray areas from all residents. To submit a no-spray request, please contact the TCHD Bureau of Environmental Health Services by phone at (330) 343-5550 or by email at eh@tchdnow.org.

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.

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

Knowing mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus are active in the Tuscarawas County community, TCHD officials encourage residents to follow these guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health to take an active part in reducing the mosquito population:

- Use insect repellent when you go outdoors; and when weather permits, wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks. 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.



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- Follow these tips to reduce mosquito activity in and around your property: 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 at least every three days.

Taking the above 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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