



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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## NEWS

### **WEST NILE VIRUS IS PRESENT IN LOCAL MOSQUITOES**

*Mosquito pool in Anderson Township area tests positive for West Nile Virus*

**HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO** – Mosquitoes that were recently trapped on Sunmount Drive in Anderson Township have tested positive for West Nile virus, a viral disease that can be passed from mosquitoes to humans.

“It is important for residents to remember that we call all take action to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and take precautions to avoid mosquito bites,” Greg Kesterman, Director of Environmental Health said. “Even though West Nile virus is present in our area, the chances of developing severe symptoms from West Nile virus remain small.”

Hamilton County Public Health staff will be conducting surveillance activities on Sunmount Drive in Anderson Township where the mosquitoes were collected. They will be looking for areas of standing water, applying larvicide, making sure swimming pools are operating properly and advising residents on precautions they can take to avoid mosquito bites.

Hamilton County Public Health continues to advise all Hamilton County residents to **DRAIN, DUNK** and **PROTECT** in an effort reduce the mosquito population and prevent West Nile Virus:

#### **DRAIN**

- Look for and drain sources of standing water on your property – litter, tires, buckets, flower pots, wading pools and similar items that could create standing water and become mosquito breeding sites.
- Frequently change water in bird baths and pet bowls.
- Drain small puddles after heavy rainstorms.

#### **DUNK**

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- Apply mosquito larvicide, sometimes called mosquito “dunks,” to areas of standing water that cannot be drained. The “dunks” are environmentally safe and won’t harm pets. Purchase them at your local hardware store.

### PROTECT

- Cut your grass and trim shrubbery.
- Make sure screens in windows and doors are tight-fitting and free from defect.
- Wear long sleeves and pants during peak mosquito hours – dawn and dusk.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow the directions on the package.

WNV is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. It is important to note that most people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will never become sick. Everyone, however, should be aware of the symptoms of WNV. Symptoms may develop 3 to 14 days after someone is bitten by an infected mosquito.

**No Symptoms in Most People.** Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.

**Milder Symptoms in Some People.** Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display symptoms which can include fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have been sick for several weeks.

**Serious Symptoms in a Few People.** About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

While all residents of areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk, people over age 50 have the highest risk of developing severe WNV infections. Anyone experiencing any of these symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for evaluation.

For more information on West Nile Virus, please contact Hamilton County Public Health at (513) 946-7832 or visit us online at [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org).