



HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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NEWS

FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED IN HAMILTON COUNTY THIS SEASON

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO – A man in his 40s from Elwood Place is the first Hamilton County resident to contract West Nile virus (WNV) in 2010. The man became ill in September and was hospitalized in early October.

WNV is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Symptoms can appear three to 14 days after someone is bitten by an infected mosquito. Approximately 80 percent of people (about four out of five) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all and only one in 150 infected persons will develop severe illness with symptoms including high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. Those age 50 and older or with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk.

“West Nile virus is here to stay and we should assume mosquitoes in Hamilton County are carrying the virus,” said Hamilton County Acting Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman. “Because humans only become infected when bitten by an infected mosquito, it is important that we all take action to protect ourselves and our property from mosquitoes,” Kesterman said.

When WNV-positive mosquitoes or human cases are identified, HCPH staff canvas a half-mile radius in the area to advise residents about steps they can take to reduce the mosquito population and prevent mosquito bites, including:

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.

NEWS

DUNK

- 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.

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.

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