

West Nile Virus Detected in Lopatcong and Franklin Townships

Two samples of *Culex* mosquitoes collected last week tested positive for West Nile virus in Warren County. The mosquitoes were collected in traps specifically designed to catch *Culex* mosquitoes, which are the type responsible for transmitting West Nile virus, particularly from bird to bird. These samples of mosquitoes were sent to the state Public Health and Environmental Lab in Trenton on Monday, July 31, 2023 and results were received August 2, 2023.

So far this year, Warren County Mosquito Control Commission has submitted 247 samples to the state laboratory for mosquito-borne virus testing and these are the first mosquito samples this year to test positive for West Nile virus. Statewide, the number of West Nile positive mosquitoes is below the 5-year average. There have been no human or horse cases confirmed West Nile positive in New Jersey yet this year. Mid to late August is peak time for humans and other mammals to acquire this virus. Subsequent trapping for adult mosquitoes is taking place to survey for mosquito species more likely to bite people. **Treatments to reduce adult mosquito populations in both areas are scheduled for Thursday night, August 3, 2023 starting at 8:30 pm.**

There are high populations of container-breeding mosquitoes in the area that could potentially transmit the virus. **YOU CAN HELP!** Residents are urged to help reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases by following these guidelines:

- Don't produce mosquitoes on your property. **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes can't begin their life without water. Encourage your neighbors to do the same!
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing the active ingredients: DEET, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** by calling 908-453-3585 or visiting www.warrencountymosquito.org *Anonymous calls accepted*. Just one neglected pool can produce more than **1 million** mosquitoes and affect people up to **five miles** away.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

West Nile virus symptoms of the mild form include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

About 1 in 5 people with West Nile virus develop a fever and mild symptoms. Less than one percent of individuals (about 1 in 150 people) infected with West Nile virus 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. West Nile virus infection can be fatal.

Horses can also contract West Nile virus and get seriously ill from the disease. There is a vaccine for horses but they need to be vaccinated every year. Contact your veterinarian for vaccination information.

- Information on WNV, repellents etc. from the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>
- Notice of spraying to be done for adult mosquitoes in the county can be found on the website, scroll down to treatment schedule: <http://www.warrencountymosquito.com>
- More information about West Nile virus and other vector borne diseases (mosquito & tick) present in New Jersey can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vectorborne.shtml>