

## West Nile Virus Detected in Washington Township

A sample of *Culex* mosquitoes collected from Meadow Breeze Park in Washington Township has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The mosquitoes were collected on August 29, 2017 in a trap specifically designed to catch *Culex* mosquitoes, which are the type responsible for transmitting West Nile virus, particularly from bird to bird. This sample of mosquitoes was sent to the state Public Health and Environmental Lab in Trenton on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

July and August are typical for Warren County to see West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes. So far this year, a total of 21 samples of mosquitoes have tested positive in Warren County [Alpha (1), Franklin(1), Greenwich (2), Hackettstown (5), Harmony (1), Hope (1), Lopatcong (1), Mansfield (1), Oxford (3), Phillipsburg (1), Pohatcong (1), Washington township (1), and White Township (2)]. Mid to late August is peak time for humans and other mammals to acquire this virus. No people in NJ have tested positive for WNV yet this year. 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 that area may be scheduled if needed. Check [www.warrencountymosquito.org](http://www.warrencountymosquito.org) for treatment dates and times.**

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.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, 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](http://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. Severe symptoms are rare but 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.

Updated WNV activity in the county can be found at <http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/diseasesurveillance.php>

Information on WNV, repellents etc. from the Centers for Disease Control at

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>

Notice of spraying to be done for adult mosquitoes in the county can be found at

<http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/adulticide.php>