

NEWS RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Reported in Mosquito Surveillance Traps in Mahoning County

Mosquitoes are a familiar nuisance each summer when you are trying to enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, some mosquitoes can carry serious diseases. The Mahoning County District Board of Health has trapped mosquitoes that the Ohio Department of Health has found to be positive for West Nile Virus. This indicates that West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes are present in the county.

The best protection against mosquito-borne diseases, like West Nile Virus, is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Tips to avoid possible mosquito bites include:

- If you are outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, be sure to wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks.
- Light colors are least attractive to mosquitoes.
- Use insect repellent and follow the label directions.

Tips to eliminate mosquito breeding sites near your home:

- Remove water-holding containers, such as tin cans and unused flower pots.
- Eliminate standing water.
- Make sure all roof gutters are properly draining and clean.
- Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they are not being used.

The three most common mosquito-borne diseases that occur locally are: Lacrosse Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, and West Nile Virus. Early symptoms of mosquito-borne disease may include nausea, fever, vomiting, and headache. More serious cases include drowsiness, stiff neck, disorientation, tremors, and possibly seizures. If you have any of these symptoms and have a history of recent mosquito bites, contact your physician.

“While Mahoning County has reported no human cases of West Nile Virus in 2017, mosquitoes carrying the disease are present in the county. At this time of year, mosquitoes remain very active, everyone should take precautions to protect themselves and their children against mosquito bites and take steps to eliminate mosquito breeding sites,” said Patricia Sweeney, health commissioner of the Mahoning County District Board of Health.

Learn more about mosquito-borne diseases at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/mosquitoes>

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