



# MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE:</b> July 16, 2025	<b>Contact:</b> Colton Masters, Director of Environmental Health
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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. Mahoning County Public Health is reporting that West Nile Virus was detected in mosquitoes caught in surveillance traps in Austintown and Beaver Townships. While this specific detection occurred in these locations, it's important to note that West Nile Virus can be present in mosquito populations throughout Mahoning County. So far in 2025, there have been no human cases of West Nile Virus reported in Mahoning County. West Nile Virus is detected and reported in counties throughout Northeast Ohio yearly, and the virus becomes more prevalent in mosquito populations in the later summer months and into early fall.

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

- Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks if you are outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Light colors are the 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 flowerpots.
- Eliminate standing water.
- Make sure all roof gutters are properly draining and clean.
- Keep children's wading pools empty and lying on their side 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.

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

### ABOUT MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Mahoning County Public Health works to protect the public's health and to ensure conditions in which all people can live healthy lives. Mahoning County Public Health offers a variety of services from immunizations to environmental and community health programs. For a complete list of services visit [mahoninghealth.org](http://mahoninghealth.org).

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