



Eastern Highlands Health District

4 South Eagleville Road • Mansfield CT 06268 • Tel: (860) 429-3325 • Fax: (860) 429-3321 • Web: www.EHHD.org

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Reports Positive Mosquitoes for West Nile Virus in Local Communities

Eastern Highlands Health District - The CT Mosquito Management Program announced that mosquitoes trapped in Mansfield and Willington on August 22 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These results represent the first WNV positive mosquitoes identified in the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) area by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. Eastern Highlands Health District residents are reminded to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases.

“With the first positive mosquitoes of the season in our area of the state, it is important to stay vigilant with avoiding mosquito bites till the season ends,” said Robert Miller, Director of Health at the EHHD. “As the virus amplifies in the mosquito population towards the end of the season we may see more positive test results until the first hard frost.”

The presence of West Nile Virus is a stark reminder that warmer and wetter weather continues to pose a risk of mosquito-borne diseases. The Eastern Highlands Health District urges residents to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their families. This includes the following:

- **Use Mosquito Repellent:** Apply an EPA-approved insect repellent to exposed skin and clothing in accordance with directions.
- **Eliminate Breeding Sites:** Regularly empty and clean containers that can collect standing water, such as flowerpots, gutters, and birdbaths.
- **Wear Protective Clothing:** Long-sleeved shirts, pants, socks, and shoes can help reduce exposure.
- **Minimize time spent outdoors at Dusk and Dawn:** Mosquito activity is often highest during these times.
- **Keep Mosquitos Out of Homes:** Be sure door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.

It is important to note that some people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not exhibit symptoms. However, some individuals, especially the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, may experience flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, body aches, and fatigue. In severe cases, WNV can lead to neurological complications.



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Eastern Highlands Health District encourages all individuals to stay informed and follow recommended guidelines to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. For more information, residents can visit the EHHD website at WWW.EHHD.org/WestNile for additional information. More information on the CAES Mosquito Trapping and Testing program can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/caes> .

The EHHD formed in 1997 is the local governmental public health authority providing full time professional public health services to ten (10) municipalities in eastern Connecticut. Town members include Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland, and Willington.

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