



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner

Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release

July 8, 2025

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Greene County Public Health Reports First Positive Test for West Nile Virus in Mosquito Sample

FAIRBORN, OH – Greene County Public Health received notice from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that West Nile Virus was detected in two mosquito samples sent to ODH. Greene County Public Health has trapped West Nile Virus-positive mosquitoes in the city of Fairborn. Greene County Public Health will continue to monitor adult mosquitoes in the surrounding communities. Public Health's Environmental Health team states that "Two positive pools from the same address have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) located on Xenia Drive in Fairborn. We will be spraying an area bordered by Hebble Avenue to the north, Broad Street to the west, N. Maple Street to the east, and Dayton Drive to the south. Additionally, we will be spraying Fairfield Park in Fairborn. Other areas that will be sprayed are Angel's Pass in Beavercreek and Caesar Ford Park in New Jasper Township. The spraying will occur between 3:30 AM and 7:00 AM on Thursday, July 10th, pending suitable weather conditions. This organic-certified spray targets adult mosquitoes and poses no threat to humans or pets when applied at the recommended concentration, as approved by the EPA. Staff have been trapping mosquitoes since June and will continue to do so until October, concentrating on human population centers".

West Nile virus (WNV) is a virus most commonly spread by infected mosquitoes, which can lead to severe fever, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord). The primary carrier in Ohio is the northern house mosquito, *Culex pipiens*. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on birds that are infected with the disease. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals when they bite.

Mosquitoes have been collected using gravid mosquito traps, and then sent to ODH for identification and testing. Information on the total number, the type, and the sex of mosquitoes (only females spread the virus) has been collected.

The Environmental Health Services Director, Shadrick Adams, reminds everyone to be aware of their exposure to mosquitoes and to protect themselves by:

1. Eliminating standing pools of water, such as birdbaths, gutters, old tires, unused pools, boats and buckets, particularly after the great amount of rain as of late.

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2. Avoid shaded areas where mosquitoes may be resting.
3. Limit outdoor activity during evening hours.
4. Wear protective clothing such as light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants.
5. Use insect repellents (those containing DEET can be very effective; follow manufacturers' usage recommendations).

Public Health officials will continue to monitor for mosquitoes by checking for standing water, applying larvicide, trapping and testing mosquitoes, and spraying adulticide, if indicated.

For more information about mosquito control or to contact Environmental Health Services, call (937) 374-5661 or email mosquitoteam@greenecophoh.gov.

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