



Greene County Public Health

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

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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

XENIA, OH – Greene County Public Health received notice from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that West Nile Virus was detected for a third time in a mosquito sample sent to ODH. Greene County Public Health has trapped West Nile Virus-infected mosquitoes in the City of Xenia around Bellbrook Avenue. Greene County Public Health will continue to monitor adult mosquitoes in the surrounding communities. Public Health's Environmental Health team states that "A sample pool of mosquitoes from the Bellbrook Avenue area in Xenia has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The area will be treated by our team between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 28, and Tuesday, July 29. The treatment area is bordered by Bellbrook Avenue to the south, Colorado Drive to the west, Nebraska Drive and Commonwealth Drive to the north and east, and Wimbledon Street to the east.

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 were 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) was 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.
2. Avoid shaded areas where mosquitoes may be resting.
3. Limit outdoor activity during evening hours.

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

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