



Greene County Public Health

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

Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Protecting Our Community: West Nile Virus Found in Fairborn Mosquitoes

FAIRBORN, OH – Greene County Public Health was notified by the Ohio Department of Health that **two mosquito samples in Fairborn tested positive for West Nile Virus**. This virus can make people very sick, so our professional mosquito team is acting fast to protect your health.

Where were the mosquitoes found?

The mosquitoes came from **Community Park and South Street**. These areas will be treated with mosquito spray **overnight from Monday, August 4, 8:30 p.m. to Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 a.m.** The area to be treated includes **Community Park**, and the **South Street area bordered by E. Dayton Drive on the north, South Central Avenue on the east, South Street on the south, and S. Broad Street on the west.**

Why this Matters to You

West Nile Virus is spread by mosquito bites, and can cause fever or swelling in the brain and spine. While most people don't get seriously ill, some do, especially older adults and those with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses.

How We Found Them

We use Gravid traps filled with "Mosquito Soup" (a special mix of water, hay, yeast, and milk powder) to catch and test mosquitoes. We send the samples to the Ohio Department of Health to test for the virus. Information on the total number, the type, and the sex of mosquitoes (only females spread the virus) was collected.

What We're Doing

- Spraying affected areas
- Checking for standing water
- Using traps and larvicide
- Monitoring mosquito populations daily

What You Can Do

The Environmental Health Services Director, Shadrick Adams, reminds everyone of ways you can protect yourself and eliminate mosquito breeding sites by taking the following actions:

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- **Dump standing water**
 - Old tires, containers, and buckets
 - Clogged gutters and downspouts
 - Bird baths, toys, pet bowls, and plant saucers
 - Areas where water collects on your property, including ditches and trash containers
 - Boats, boat covers
- **Maintain water features, including swimming pools**
 - Keep ponds or fountains moving with pumps or by using mosquito-eating fish
 - Cover pools and spas when not in use
- **Use mosquito repellents**
 - Natural plants can be effective, including herbs and flowers like citronella, lavender, catnip, and marigolds
 - Outdoor fans can deter them from landing on you
 - Citronella candles and torches on porches, patios, and decks create a mosquito-free zone
- **Protect yourself**
 - Dress in lightweight, light-colored long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk
 - Use insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin, or IR3535; follow all label instructions
 - Avoid shaded areas where mosquitoes may be resting

For more information, concerns, or questions, call (937) 374-5661 or email mosquitoteam@greenecophoh.gov.

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