



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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Two Mosquito Samples in Greene County Test Positive for West Nile Virus

GREENE COUNTY, OH – Greene County Public Health officials were notified by the Ohio Department of Health that ***two mosquito samples taken from Shawnee Hills in Jamestown and an area in Bowersville tested positive for West Nile Virus.***

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.

What We're Doing

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

Areas to be Treated

In line with its Integrated Pest Management program, the Greene County Public Health vectors team will apply adulticide in both of these areas on **Saturday, August 8, at 9:00 pm through Sunday morning, August 9, at 7:00 am:**

- *The area around Maysville and Ross Streets in Bowersville*
- *The areas of North Lakeshore Drive and Shawnee Trail at Shawnee Lake in Jamestown*

What is West Nile Virus | What are the Symptoms

West Nile virus is the most common disease spread by mosquitoes in the United States. People usually get it from the bite of a mosquito that has the virus. Most cases happen during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and lasts into the fall.

There is no vaccine or medicine to prevent or treat West Nile virus in people. Symptoms of West Nile virus infection can range from mild to severe.

Mild Symptoms:

- Fever
- Headache

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- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Rash (usually on the trunk or back)

Severe Symptoms:

- High fever (over 102°F)
- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Seizures
- Paralysis
- Coma
- Tremors
- Muscle weakness

It's important to note that most people infected with the West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. However, symptoms typically appear 3-15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

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:

- **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

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- 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 vectors@greenecophoh.gov.

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