

West Nile Virus Detected in Franklin Township

One sample of *Culex* mosquitoes collected from Franklin Township has tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquito sample was collected from the area of the Morris Canal near White's Road on July 29, 2024. The mosquitoes were collected from a trap specifically designed to catch *Culex* mosquitoes, which are the type responsible for transmitting West Nile virus, particularly from bird to bird. This sample of mosquitoes was sent to the state Public Health and Environmental Lab in Trenton on Monday, August 5, 2024.

There has been more West Nile virus activity this year than normal, both in the County and the State. In Warren County to date this year, there have been 15 positive samples in the following municipalities: Allamuchy (1), Alpha (3), Belvidere (1), Franklin (1), Harmony (1), Lopatcong (3), Phillipsburg (4), and Washington Township (1). As the summer season progresses, West Nile virus activity builds up in the mosquito population. West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes in NJ is trending higher this year than the 5-year average. Mid to late August is the peak time for humans and other mammals to acquire this virus. There have been 2 confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus in New Jersey, one each in Union and Middlesex counties. **Treatments to reduce adult mosquito populations in that area are scheduled for Sunday August 11, 2024, between 8:30 pm and 11:59 pm, weather pending.**

Residents are urged to help reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases by following these guidelines:

- Don't produce mosquitoes on your property. **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes can't begin their life without water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** by calling 908-453-3585 or visiting www.warrencountymosquito.org *Anonymous calls accepted*. Just one neglected pool can produce more than **1 million** mosquitoes and affect people up to **five miles** away.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

West Nile virus symptoms of the mild form include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

Less than one percent of individuals (about 1 in 150 people) infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. West Nile virus infection can be fatal.

MORE INFORMATION

WNV activity in the county: <https://warrencountymosquito.com/>

Repellent information from the Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention/>

Mosquito-borne Diseases in NJ: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/mosquitoborne.shtml>

Notice of spraying to be done for adult mosquitoes in the county: <https://warrencountymosquito.com/adulticide/>