

MEDIA RELEASE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Canton City Public Health

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For Immediate Release

Positive West Nile Virus Test Results Increase

(Canton, OH) - Canton City Public Health (CCPH) received word from the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory that two more mosquito samples collected as part of their mosquito surveillance program have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The most recent positive results came from mosquitoes trapped the week of July 8 at Weis Park and the area near 11th and Whipple Ave. SW. This brings the total number of WNV positives to seven.

WNV is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental US. The virus is spread to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or rash, and are seen in about 20% of cases.

CCPH vector control staff continue to larvicide as well as identify and remove areas of stagnant water. We are completing our second round of mosquito spraying and will be conducting additional spraying over the remaining summer months. Larviciding kills mosquitoes at the larval stage while spraying targets adult mosquitoes.

Although there have been no reports of West Nile human cases in the City, Canton residents are encouraged to take steps to help reduce mosquitoes and protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these steps:

- Limit outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity (early morning and late evening).
- Use an approved insect repellent when outdoors.
- Wear lightweight long pants and shirts.
- Remove sources of stagnant water around your home and yard such as buckets, old tires, tarps, and other items that hold water.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Drain and clean bird baths at least weekly.
- Keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated with water circulating (even if not being used).
- Keep gutters clean.
- Repair window and door screens.
- Remove old, unused tires to a legal tire disposal facility. Canton residents can dispose of 10 tires per person per year for FREE at the Canton Recycling Center (742 Schroyer Ave. SW). Schedule an appointment at: www.timetorecycle.org/resources/schedule-an-appointment/ or call 330-874-2258, Press 1.

Find more information on how to Fight the Bite at: www.cantonhealth.org . Questions should be directed to Gus Dria, Environmental Health Supervisor, at gdria@cantonhealth.org or 330-438-4647.

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