

MEDIA RELEASE



Public Health
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Canton City Public Health

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For Immediate Release

Recent Mosquito Testing Reveals Highest Increase in West Nile Virus Positive Results

(Canton, OH) – Canton City Public Health received word from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) laboratory that 12 more mosquito samples collected as part of their mosquito surveillance program have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). ODH notified us of the first WNV positive mosquito samples in June. Additional positive test results were reported throughout July. These latest positive results came from mosquitoes trapped the week of August 5 and is the highest count this year, bringing the total number of WNV positives to 29. WNV positive samples have been detected at 18 of the 24 trap locations across the City of Canton.

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 identify and remove areas of stagnant water. We have completed four rounds of mosquito spraying thus far and have another round scheduled in September.

While 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 EPA 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.

