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[www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Mosquitoes Testing Positive for West Nile Virus Found in Newington**

The Central Connecticut Health District received notification from the Connecticut Department of Public Health that mosquitoes recently trapped in Newington tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). For the past several years, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has been trapping and collecting mosquitoes for testing from approximately 91 trap sites in 72 municipalities around the state. Two of those sites are located within the Central Connecticut Health District, one in Newington and the other in Wethersfield. The mosquitoes with WNV were collected at the Newington site, and were reported positive on August 15 by the CAES.

In 2016, mosquitos infected with WNV have been found in seven towns in Connecticut: Bridgeport, Darien, Hartford, Stamford, Stratford, West Hartford and now Newington. There have been no humans testing positive for WNV in Connecticut to date this year.

The type of mosquitos infected with West Nile (predominantly the *culex pipiens*) is a different type of mosquito than those that carry the Zika Virus. Zika Virus is found predominantly the *Ae. Egypti*, which is not found in Connecticut or less commonly, the *Ae. albopictus*, which is found along the coast of Connecticut. Both the *culex pipiens* mosquitoes and the *Ae. albopictus*, lay eggs in small containers of water often found near homes.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, please use the following personal protection measures:

- Avoid outdoor activities one hour before and one hour after dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors; it is especially important to cover the arms and legs of children.
- When outside, use mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, some oil of lemon eucalyptus or paramenthane-diol. Follow the directions on the package. No product containing DEET should be used on infants less than two months old.
- Cover babies' playpens and carriages with mosquito netting when outdoors.
- Avoid camping near fresh water swamps and use mosquito netting in tents.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are numerous.
- Eliminate sources of standing water such as stagnant ponds, ditches, flower pots and old tires, as mosquitoes only need a few tablespoons of water to lay eggs. Drain and turn over children's pools, clean clogged gutters, and flush birdbaths and fountains once or twice a week. Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers and any similar containers that have accumulated on your property, and drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers that are left outside.

- Make sure your property is graded properly and has adequate drainage. Look for places where rainwater collects and fill all holes and depressions. Mosquitoes will breed in any puddle that lasts for more than 4 days.
- Store boats, wheelbarrows, and containers upside down. If you have a pond, be sure it is aerated or stocked with fish such as goldfish or minnows, which eat mosquito larvae.
- Patch holes in screens and make sure screens are tightly attached to doors and windows.
- Use low toxicity insecticides and always follow the directions on the products. When applying sprays, be sure to keep the wind at your back, carry the spray away from you and avoid personal contact with it and excessive inhalation of spray materials.
- Place bat houses on your property.

The majority of people infected with West Nile Virus, experience no symptoms. Although there is no cure, the symptoms of West Nile Virus can be treated in most cases. Symptoms usually occur 3-14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and may include: slight fever, body aches, headache, rash and conjunctivitis. However, anyone experiencing a high fever, stiff neck severe headache, disorientation, vision loss, numbness or muscle weakness should consult a doctor, because serious infections can result in neurological disease and in rare cases, death. Those individuals at risk for developing a severe illness include the elderly, the very young, and those with compromised immune systems.

Anyone with questions or concerns about mosquito control, WNV or any public health issue may contact the Central Connecticut Health District, serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield at [www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org) or by calling (860)721-2822.

Additional information about mosquito control can be obtained from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) at [www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito) or at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station at [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes). Inquiries about pesticide-related subjects are handled through the National Pesticide Information Center at 1800-858-7378. Further information about West Nile Virus can be <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>.

