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LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

LAKE COUNTY WEST NILE VIRUS NEWS: FIRST POSITIVE WNV MOSQUITOES OF THE 2009 SEASON

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) announces that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has confirmed one positive mosquito pool for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Lake County. A “pool” is a collection of no more than 50 mosquitoes. Although this particular positive pool was located in Painesville Township on August 13, it is likely that WNV positive mosquitoes are present throughout the county. This is confirmation that the WNV threat is present and will likely increase for the remainder of the summer.

Positive WNV mosquitoes are typical for this time of year. Ninety-seven (97) positive mosquito pools have been reported from 8 Ohio counties including Cuyahoga (1), Franklin (57), Hamilton (8), Licking (27) Lorain (1), Montgomery (1) and Summit (1). Please note that at this time last year, it was reported that there were 81 WNV positive pools Statewide. There were no Human WNV cases in Lake County in 2008 and 15 Statewide.

The mosquitoes are the first reported WNV positive this season in Lake County out of 78 pools (3,359 mosquitoes) tested through August 13. Statewide, 6,544 mosquito pools (224,780 mosquitoes) have been tested. In Lake County in 2002, there were 76 positive mosquito pools; 2003 (55); 2004 (26); 2005 (34), 2006 (87), 2007 (7) and 2008 (15).

In response to these confirmed positives, the LCGHD, in cooperation with the ODH, will continue surveillance and will continue to find, eliminate, and treat mosquito-breeding sites. Please remember that West Nile Virus is endemic in Lake County and Ohio since 2001 and will continue to be a long term, public health threat. Do your part to control breeding sites. Here are some tips for homeowners to reduce the risk of WNV.

- Dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools, plastic covers or other containers that collect and hold water.
- Keep roof gutters unclogged. Clean gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs. Keep them covered when empty.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted trays at least once a week, if not more often.
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches, and swampy areas and either remove, drain, or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar.
- Eliminate seepage from cisterns, cesspools, and septic tanks.
- Eliminate standing water around animal watering troughs.

- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.
- Avoid being outside at dawn/dusk. If you cannot avoid those times, use insect repellent.
- Use an insect repellent containing 10% or less DEET (N, N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluidide) for children and no more than 30% DEET for adults. Use repellents containing DEET according to label instructions.
 - Do not use DEET insect repellent on infants or pregnant women.
 - Do not allow young children to apply DEET insect repellent themselves. Store insect repellent out of their reach.
 - Apply DEET insect repellent to your hands and then to a child. Do not apply DEET insect repellent directly to a child.
 - DEET insect repellent is effective for about four hours. Use small amounts over exposed skin and clothing. Do not use DEET insect repellent for a long period of time.
 - Wash treated skin and clothing after returning indoors.
- Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks if you go outside when mosquitoes are most active (from dusk until dawn).
- Make sure window and door screens are “bug tight”. Repair or replace torn screens.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow “bug lights”.
- Call the LCGHD if you have a concern about standing water. If it is on private property, permission is needed to enter the property.

If any resident has questions concerning mosquito control, and/or West Nile educational information, please call the Lake County General Health District West Nile Virus informational line at (440) 350-2543. Additional WNV and mosquito information can be found at:

Ohio Dept. of Health <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/wnv/wnv1.aspx>

CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

LCGHD <http://www.lcghd.org/>

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