



KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release
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WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN CITY OF KENT MOSQUITOES

Kent, Ohio – The Kent City Health Department (KCHD) announces that the Ohio Department of Health laboratory (ODH) has confirmed multiple mosquito pools have tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). A “pool” is a collection of 50 mosquitoes from a location monitored for mosquito breeding. This is a confirmation that the WNV threat is in the area and will persist for the remainder of the summer. To date, no human cases of WNV have been reported in Kent or Portage County.

ODH lab tests confirmed the positive pools were collect on July 27 and 28 in the areas of the Horning Rd and Holly Dr intersection and the Fairchild Athletic Fields. In response, KCHD will increase monitoring and treatment/breeding control efforts in these areas.

Residents are reminded that mosquitoes breed in standing water. Please follow the tips listed below to help reduce the mosquito population:

- Install or repair window and door screens so mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- Keep gutters clean and free of standing water.
- Empty water at least twice a week from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- Remove discarded tires and other items that could collect water.
- Be sure to check containers or trash in places that may be hard to see and can potentially hold water, such as under bushes or under your deck.

Tips to avoid mosquito bites include:

Use an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil, lemon eucalyptus, or other EPA-approved active ingredients on skin and/or clothing.

- Avoid being outside at dawn and dusk. If you cannot avoid those times, use an insect repellent according to the label directions.
- Avoid shaded and wooded areas where mosquitoes may be present.
- Cover your skin when outdoors. Wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes.

If you have any further concerns please call the health department at 330-678-8109 or visit <https://www.kentohio.org/243/Mosquito-Control> for more information about the mosquito control program.