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## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY WEST NILE VIRUS**

August 3, 2018

On Friday, August 3, 2018, the Morris County Mosquito Control Division notified the Hanover Township Health Department that mosquitoes collected from one of the Division's traps near Bee Meadow Park, tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The County Mosquito Control Division maintains active surveillance efforts throughout the county, which includes the testing of mosquitoes from traps that are strategically located throughout Morris County. The presence of WNV positive mosquitoes in Morris County and New Jersey during this time of year is not uncommon.

The County Mosquito Control Division has scheduled spraying of the affected area for next week. The Division routinely performs mosquito control services in the County and information on spraying schedules can be found on the following webpage: <https://morriscountynj.gov/mosquito/>

A bite from a WNV infected mosquito can result in West Nile Virus, an infection that can cause serious illness. Persons who are 50 and older are at highest risk for serious illness. Many individuals who are infected with WNV do not become ill. Individuals who develop illness may experience flu-like illness, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, skin rash, and swollen lymph glands.

Many types of mosquitoes, including those that can spread disease, lay their eggs in stagnant (still) water. Areas where mosquito breeding can occur include birdbaths, containers, flowerpot drain pans, discarded tires, clogged gutters/downspouts, and decorative ponds. Township residents are advised to check their properties for possible mosquito-breeding sites and:

- Dispose of old tires. Drill holes in tire swings.
- Drain standing water from pool covers. Make sure pool covers are pulled tight. Keep pools chlorinated. Flip over plastic children's pools when not in use.
- Drain or change water every four days in containers such as pet dishes, flower pots, wheelbarrows, birdbaths, decorative pools and rain barrels. Decorative pools and rain barrels can be stocked with a special type of fish that feed on mosquito larvae.
- Cover garbage and recycling containers. Remove any loose garbage from your yard such as bottle caps, pie plates, food containers, etc.
- Check swing sets, lawn furniture and decorations, toys, etc. for standing water.

Most mosquitoes are not infected with disease-causing viruses. However, to reduce your risk of being bitten, residents are advised to take the following steps:

- Install or repair window screens.
- Use insect repellent when outdoors. DEET is the "gold-standard" for mosquito repellents. Choose the proper percent of DEET for the amount of time you will be spending outdoors. The higher the concentration, the longer the protection. Follow all directions carefully.
- Do not apply to eyes, mouth, or broken skin (cuts, scrapes, etc.).
- Do not apply to skin that is covered with clothing.
- Avoid using products that combine sunscreen with insect repellent. Apply separate products.
- Do not use products that contain permethrin on skin. Spray onto clothing only.
- Permethrin can also be sprayed on gear such as hats, tents and sleeping bags.
- DEET and other repellents can be used on children older than two months of age. Apply repellent to your hands and then rub onto children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children younger than three years of age.
- Wear light-colored clothes with long sleeves and long pants. Mosquitoes are more attracted to dark-colored clothes.
- Limit time outdoors when mosquitoes are most active (during dusk and dawn).
- Use mosquito netting on infant carriers and strollers while outdoors.

For more information contact the Hanover Township Health Department at 973-428-2484 or visit [www.hanovertownship.com](http://www.hanovertownship.com).