



# City of Meriden, Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Lea Crown, MPH  
Director of Health and Human Services

165 Miller Street  
Meriden, CT 06450-4283  
Telephone (203) 630-4226  
Fax (203) 639-0039

**August 6, 2019**

**Press Release – For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services, 203-630-4221**  
**Scott Bryden, Environmental Health Administrator, 203-630-4226**

## **Public Health Reminder - Prevent Mosquito Borne Illnesses**

Connecticut is starting to see cases of mosquito-borne virus isolations in mosquitoes trapped and tested through surveillance done by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). These include West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus, or Jamestown Canyon Virus.

As of August 6, no mosquitoes trapped and tested in Meriden have tested positive for these viruses. To date, there have been no human cases of mosquito borne illness in Connecticut this season.

The Meriden Department of Health and Human Services would like to remind residents to take prevention measures to protect against mosquito-borne illness:

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active. If you are outside during this time, consider using mosquito repellent when outdoors and follow the directions on the label. The most effective repellents contain DEET or Picaridin.
- When using DEET, use the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately 2 hours and 20% for 4 hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors. Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than 2 months of age.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors during dusk and dawn, or when in mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods.

Take these measures to reduce mosquitoes around the home:

- Look for standing water after rainstorms. Dump water out of any container or object that can hold standing water, such as ceramic pots, tires, and wading pools.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Drain any collected water from pool covers on a weekly basis.
- Use landscaping techniques to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

If the public has any questions they can call the Meriden Health and Human Services Department at 203-630-4226. Weekly mosquito surveillance is posted on the CAES website at <https://tinyurl.com/y5kcu6fh>.