



City of Meriden, Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Press Release – For Immediate Release

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Public Health Alert: WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN MOSQUITOES IN MERIDEN

(August 27, 2024) - Mosquitos trapped on August 21 by the [Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station \(CAES\)](#) in Meriden have tested positive for [West Nile Virus \(WNV\)](#). The Meriden testing site is Falcon Park.

“I ask everyone to prevent mosquito bites by covering bare skin and using insect repellent when outside – especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Also, please eliminate any standing water from around your home and make sure your door and window screens are in good repair”, says Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services.

While most people infected with WNV do not develop any symptoms, about 1 in 5 people develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Some populations, such as those persons over 60 and those with certain medical conditions, can develop a more severe illness affecting the central nervous system such as encephalitis or meningitis. Persons should call their doctor if they develop the symptoms described above. In Connecticut, there has been 1 case of human infection of WNV this year.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services recommends that residents should:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods, or when mosquitoes are most active. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect small babies when outdoors.

- Consider the use of mosquito repellent, according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors. Follow the instructions for application on the product.

Prevention tips should be followed until the first “hard frost”. According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), a hard, or killing frost, is defined meteorologically as two consecutive hours of temperatures below 28 degrees Fahrenheit or three hours below 32 degrees. This will occur at different times for different communities, and there may even be variation within communities based on local geography. Information on when to determine if a hard frost has occurred can be found on the weather reports from local media outlets, through the National Weather Service (<http://w2.weather.gov/climate/>) and other online resources such as Weather Underground (<https://www.wunderground.com/>).

For information on WNV and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Website at www.ct.gov/mosquito. For more information on mosquito surveillance visit the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website at <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES>.

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