

## West Nile Virus Detected in Alpha Borough

A sample of *Culex* mosquitoes collected from Alpha Borough has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The mosquitoes were collected on August 8, 2017 in a trap specifically designed to catch *Culex* mosquitoes, which are the type responsible for transmitting West Nile virus, particularly from bird to bird. This sample of mosquitoes was sent to the state Public Health and Environmental Lab in Trenton on Monday August 14, 2017.

July and August are typical for Warren County to see West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes. So far this year, a total of 9 samples of mosquitoes have tested positive in Warren County [Oxford (3), Harmony (1), Franklin (1), Hope (1), Hackettstown (2), and Alpha (1)]. Mid to late August is peak time for humans and other mammals to acquire this virus. No people in NJ have tested positive for WNV yet this year. Subsequent trapping for adult mosquitoes is taking place to survey for mosquito species more likely to bite people. **Treatments to reduce adult mosquito populations in that area were conducted on August 15, 2017 and may be scheduled again if needed. Check [www.warrencountymosquito.org](http://www.warrencountymosquito.org) for treatment dates and times.**

Residents are urged to help reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases by following these guidelines:

- Don't produce mosquitoes on your property. **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes can't begin their life without water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** by calling 908-453-3585 or visiting [www.warrencountymosquito.org](http://www.warrencountymosquito.org) *Anonymous calls accepted*. Just one neglected pool can produce more than **1 million** mosquitoes and affect people up to **five miles** away.

### WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

West Nile virus symptoms of the mild form include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

Less than one percent of individuals (about 1 in 150 people) infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. West Nile virus infection can be fatal.

Updated WNV activity in the county can be found at <http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/diseasesurveillance.php>  
Information on WNV, repellents etc. from the Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>

Notice of spraying to be done for adult mosquitoes in the county can be found at <http://www.warrencountymosquito.org/adulticide.php>