

Press Release

Stephen Mansfield
Director of Health, LLHD
860-448-4882 ext.1307
smansfield@llhd.org

Mosquitoes in Waterford Test Positive for West Nile Virus

Ledge Light Health District announced today those mosquitoes collected in Waterford on July 20th have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The positive mosquito, *Culiseta melanura*, feeds primarily on birds. Positive WNV mosquitoes are normally expected during the summer months, and their presence serves as a reminder for residents to take standard precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

Precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- While outdoors, wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions. The most effective repellents contain DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus is also effective for brief periods of exposure.
- 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.

Measures to reduce mosquitoes around the home:

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, and tire swings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and cover pools when not in use.
- Use landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

Additional resources for information on West Nile virus and mosquito management can be found at

<http://www.ct.gov/mosquito/site/default.asp>

Ledge Light Health District has a supply of larvicidal briquettes that can be used to treat standing water on private property. This larvicide prevents mosquitoes from developing into adults. Residents of municipalities served by Ledge Light Health District may request treatment of standing water on their property by calling Kara Hovland at 860-448-4882, extension 1308 (East of Thames River); or Patti Myers, 860-434-1605 extension 214 (West of Thames River). A District Sanitarian will visit your property and apply the larvicide to the area of standing water. The treatment will last approximately 30 days.