

Press Release: September 27, 2023

Jennifer Muggeo, Director of Health, 860-448-4882 ext.1300 / jmuggeo@llhd.org

Mosquitoes in Ledge Light Health District Test Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus

Ledge Light Health District announced today that mosquitoes collected in East Lyme and from a collection station on the Waterford/New London line on September 14 have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV), and that mosquitoes collected in Ledyard on September 20 have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Previously this year, mosquitoes from Ledyard (9/13), Lyme (9/6), North Stonington (8/21), Stonington (9/11), and Waterford/New London (8/23) tested positive for WNV and from Stonington (9/11) for EEE. Additionally, Ledge Light Health District has become aware that mosquitoes from North Stonington (8/21) tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV). JCV isolates have appeared in Connecticut every year since 1997 and have been found in New London County before, although with much less frequency than WNV and EEE. Positive mosquitoes are normally expected during the summer months, and their presence serves as a reminder for community members 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 mosquito management and mosquito-borne diseases can be found on our website at: <https://llhd.org/healthy-communities/nurturing-healthy-environments/mosquito-borne-disease/>.

If you need assistance or advice treating standing water on your property, a member of our Environmental Health staff can help. An Environmental Technician will visit your property and provide education on how to prevent and eliminate mosquitoes. Contact Patti Myers at (860) 434-1605 ext. 214 for more information.