



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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July 13, 2022

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### **West Nile Virus Found in Mosquitoes from Three Communities** *No Human Cases of the Virus Reported Since 2021*

**PITTSBURGH** – Mosquitoes collected by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) on July 6, 2022 in the City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Point Breeze and the North Side, as well as Wilkesburg Borough have tested positive for West Nile virus. There have been no reported human cases of West Nile virus this year.

West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States. It is spread to people by infected mosquito bites. Cases of West Nile virus occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall. The last reported human case of West Nile virus occurred in 2021.

Most people infected with the West Nile virus do not feel sick. Only 1 in 5 people infected with the virus develop a fever and other symptoms, such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Less than one percent of infected people develop a serious illness.

“Allegheny County residents, especially those who participate in outdoor recreational activities or work outdoors, should take precautions to avoid becoming infected with West Nile virus both at home and while traveling,” explained Epidemiology Supervisor Jennifer Fiddner.

There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat the West Nile virus. Residents who believe they, or someone they know, has West Nile virus should consult a health care provider for evaluation and diagnosis.

The ACHD urges residents to protect themselves from mosquitoes by:

- Getting rid of standing water in yards,
- Making sure open windows and doors have screens
- Using insect repellent on exposed skin, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. When used as directed, insect repellent is the best way to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

“Residents can greatly reduce the mosquito population by eliminating and treating breeding sites on their own properties,” said ACHD Director Dr. Debra Bogen. “Mosquitoes can breed in as little as ½ inch deep stagnant water, so be sure to pay close attention to potential breeding sites like stagnant water in tires, unused swimming pools, buckets and clogged gutters.”

The Health Department will continue to set mosquito traps as part of its surveillance activities. While not specifically focused on the communities where mosquitoes tested positive for the virus, officials will continue working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to assess any threats to public health.

Residents can report mosquito breeding sites on both private properties and public areas to the Health Department’s Vector Control Program by completing its [online form](#) or calling 412-687-2243.

For more information on the West Nile virus, including frequently asked questions about prevention, symptoms, and transmission, visit the [CDC's webpage on the disease](#).

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