



Vector Control Weights & Measures
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes

Cumberland County Vector Control announces 18 sample collections submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) since May 31st have been determined to be Positive for West Nile Virus. The collections were mostly from residential neighborhoods in six municipalities including Hampden, Middlesex, Monroe, Camp Hill, Shiremanstown, and Wormleysburg.

Homeowners are encouraged to increase their role in keeping mosquito populations and West Nile Virus to a minimum.

Artificial habitat around a home is a source for mosquitoes to reproduce. Identifying objects around the home that may contain water is important and can provide immediate relief. The following is a list of primary sources around a home:

- Discarded containers, buckets, toys left outside
- Wading pools, unused swimming pools, pool covers
- Bird baths, ornamental ponds,
- Clogged roof gutters, garden irrigation barrels
- Unused uncovered boats, wheelbarrows, ceramic pots

The simplest and most economical solution is to empty water from containers and remove it or render it so that it will not hold water again. Also, there are retail products that homeowners can purchase at a lawn and garden store to place in the water that will inhibit mosquito growth. The species of mosquito most associated with West Nile Virus normally does not travel more than a few hundred yards from the water where they hatched. The collections to date are mostly from residential areas, suggesting the habitat is nearby in the neighborhood.

Cumberland County participates in the PA DEP West Nile Virus Surveillance Program. Samples (20-30 per week) are taken to DEP for testing for the West Nile Virus. Collections and control efforts will be conducted through October. The County has conducted two adult mosquito spray operations to date in 2012.

The Vector Control webpage includes daily updates and control information, (www.ccpa.net/vector), or phone 240-7808. In addition to mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus, Vector Control provides information or referrals for residents on household pests and wildlife.

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