



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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June 27, 2017

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Positive West Nile Virus Mosquito Sample Reported in Cumberland County*

**Cumberland County, PA-** Cumberland County's Vector Control Office received confirmation from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of a positive mosquito sample for West Nile Virus (WNV). The positive sample was collected in **Lemoyne Borough**. This is the second positive sample for WNV in Cumberland County this year. The first was reported earlier this month in East Pennsboro Township.

John Bitner, Vector Control chief, reminds County residents that a key in preventing mosquitos and the diseases they spread is to identify and eliminate their water habitat. Stagnant water sitting in buckets, clogged rainspouts, toys, boats, unattended swimming pools, etc. can quickly become breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Containers should be emptied every five days to prevent adult mosquitoes from emerging. If you have a water source that cannot be drained, treat with mosquito dunks or bits that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), which kills larvae. These products are safe for use around humans and pets, and can be found at hardware and other local retailers.

The County's WNV program applies an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan to control mosquitoes, while limiting the effects to people and the environment. Vector Control will continue to collect and monitor the mosquito population and to actively treat water habitat to limit future generations of mosquitoes. No spraying for adult mosquitoes is planned at this time.

Mosquitoes transmit WNV by feeding on infected birds and transmit the disease when biting another bird, animal or human. The virus is not spread by person-to-person contact. One in five people infected with WNV develop a mild infection called West Nile Fever; aches, fever, skin rash and swollen lymph nodes are symptoms of this infection. With rest and fluids, most people recover in a few days. Less than one percent of infections develop into the life-threatening West Nile Encephalitis. Symptoms in severe cases include a high fever, headache, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, tremors and convulsions. This infection requires immediate medical treatment.

For more information on the West Nile Virus Control Program in Cumberland County and tips on how to protect yourself from WNV, visit [www.ccpa.net/vector](http://www.ccpa.net/vector).

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