



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Vince DiFilippo
Chairman

Jim Hertzler
Vice Chairman

Gary Eichelberger
Secretary

July 18, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Rachel Bryson, Communications Director
717.706.0001

Cumberland County Reports 12 Positive Mosquito Tests for West Nile Virus

Cumberland County, PA - Cumberland County's Vector Control Office reports a total of 12 mosquito collections have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) so far this year. The positive samples were collected from East Pennsboro, Hampden and Shippensburg townships, and Carlisle, Camp Hill and Lemoyne boroughs. With the positive tests, Vector Control reminds the public that preventing mosquitos is a community effort.

Stagnate water is a perfect breeding ground for mosquitos. Even an amount so small it will only fill a bottle cap, is enough to breed hundreds of mosquitos. Vector Control encourages residents to survey their property for potential breeding habitats and take preventative steps.

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.

Vector Control is keeping a close eye on the mosquito population and frequently gathers samples for testing. To date, the office has applied more than 80 applications of mosquito control product to potential water breeding grounds.

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.

###