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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Reports Two Positive West Nile Virus Mosquito Samples

Carlisle, PA – Cumberland County’s Vector Control Office was today notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of two positive mosquito samples for West Nile Virus (WNV). The positive samples were collected in **Mt. Holly Springs Borough** and **Shippensburg Township**.

These are the first two positive samples for WNV for the county this year. To date, 1180 adult mosquito samples have been collected from 257 sites throughout the county; statewide, 23 samples have tested positive for WNV.

“Identifying and eliminating stagnate water can help prevent mosquitos and the diseases they spread,” said John Bitner, chief, Cumberland County Vector Control. “Dump water from containers on your property that can become a breeding ground for mosquitos; it only takes a bottle cap of water to breed hundreds of 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 stores 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.

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, visit www.ccpa.net/vector.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.