



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional Mosquito Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus

MEDINA, Ohio (August 17, 2026) – The Medina County Health Department (MCHD) received word from the Ohio Department of Health that two additional mosquito samples collected as part of the mosquito surveillance program have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This brings the total number of WNV-positive pool samples to 11 across five different locations in Medina County for 2026. These positive mosquito samples still do not involve any human cases. The two new mosquito sample locations were identified at the Susan Hambley Nature Center in Brunswick and Buckeye Woods Park in Medina.

Mosquito activity increases as temperatures rise, making August active months for mosquitoes throughout Ohio. In addition to our positive samples here in Medina County, MCHD is also seeing an increase in positive WNV mosquito samples in our surrounding counties.

Knowing that there are mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus in our community, MCHD encourages residents to take an active part in helping reduce the possibility of mosquito disease transmission by following these steps:

- **Insect repellent** – When outdoors, use repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, para menthane-diol, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow the directions on the package.
- **Protective clothing** – Wearing lightweight and light-colored pants and full arm shirts can help prevent mosquito bites.
- **Avoid peak hours** – Mosquitos are most active in the mornings, late afternoon, and evenings. Limiting outdoor activity during these times may help avoid mosquito bites.
- **Screens and netting** - Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- **Remove mosquito breeding sites around your home** - Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and, on their sides, when they aren't being used.

The Health Department continues to monitor mosquito samples and will continue to treat road ditches, storm sewers, and catch basins throughout Medina County. Environmentally friendly larvicide and pesticides are used.

For more information about the Medina County Health Department mosquito control program or West Nile virus, visit www.medinahealth.org or call 330-723-9688, option 3.

About Medina County Health Department

The public health mission is to prevent, promote, and protect health. You can trust the Health Department to keep you informed and provide reliable information on what you can do during this outbreak and beyond. The Medina County Health Department has protected your health since 1918. Services are partially supported by your property tax health levy. Equal opportunity provider.

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