

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Encourages Personal Protection as More Mosquito Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus

MEDINA, OHIO, July 29, 2025 – With seven new mosquito samples testing positive for West Nile virus (WNV), the Medina County Health Department encourages residents to prioritize personal protection against mosquitoes, especially during the morning and late evening hours. While there have not been any human cases of WNV identified in Medina County so far this year, we are at the point in the summer when the risk for human transmission is going up. The frequent storms and increased temperatures have created excellent breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

Here are some reminders to protect yourself from mosquitoes:

- **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 its side when not in use.

The seven new mosquito samples were identified at four locations across Medina County: Brongers Park in Hinckley, Buckeye Woods in Lafayette Township, Sharon Community Park in Sharon Township, and Reagan Park in Medina. With these seven new positive samples, the total of WNV positive samples in Medina County for 2025 is now at 15. WNV has been confirmed in mosquito populations across at least 21 other counties in Ohio, with one confirmed human case of WNV in Fulton County, Ohio.

The virus generally doesn't lead to severe illness, however, it can still make you sick. Common symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches. 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 medinahealth.org/home/mosquito 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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