

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Metcalf

Medina County Health Department

Phone: 330-723-9688, option 2

mmetcalf@medinahealth.org

Positive Human Case of West Nile Detected in Medina County

Medina, OHIO, August 20, 2025 – The Medina County Health Department (MCHD) received notification of a laboratory confirmed positive human case of West Nile virus. This is the first reported human case of West Nile virus (WNV) for the 2025 mosquito season in Medina County. Due to privacy and confidentiality reasons, MCHD will not disclose any information about the patient.

Personal Protection

MCHD wants to encourage all residents to prioritize personal protection against mosquitoes. Prior to this first human case, MCHD identified 30 different mosquito samples across Medina County that tested positive for WNV between June and August. These samples come from mosquito traps that MCHD monitors.

Here are some important 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.

West Nile Virus Background

WNV is a disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes can become infected when they feed on the blood of an infected bird. The infected mosquitoes can then transmit WNV to humans. WNV is not contagious, meaning humans cannot spread the virus to other humans.

WNV symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, a skin rash on the torso, and swollen lymph nodes. While the risk of severe symptoms is low, individuals aged 50 and older and those with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk of having more severe symptoms. Anyone experiencing these symptoms is encouraged to seek medical attention. If you need a medical care provider, contact the Health Center at the Medina County Health Department by calling 330-723-9688, option 1. MCHD will continue to promote personal protection and monitor for additional human cases to protect the health of our residents.

About Medina County Health Department

The Medina County Health Department has protected your health since 1918. Its mission is to prevent disease, assure a healthful environment, prolong life, and promote well-being for the citizens of Medina County. Services are partially supported by your property tax health levy. Equal opportunity provider.

###