



GCCHD

GREENE COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

Mark A. McDonnell, RS, MS, Health Commissioner

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Dear Resident:

The mosquitoes are biting – and thousands of people are putting themselves at risk of getting ill with West Nile virus (WNV). Mosquitoes carry the virus.

Many people who are bitten by an infected mosquito won't get sick—many others aren't as lucky. Since 1999, more than 30,000 people in the United States have been reported as getting sick with West Nile virus. Occasionally, infected persons may develop more severe diseases such as “West Nile encephalitis”, “West Nile meningitis”, or West Nile meningoencephalitis.”

Encephalitis refers to an inflammation of the brain, meningitis is an inflammation of the membrane around the brain and the spinal cord, and meningoencephalitis refers to inflammation of the brain and the membrane surrounding it. Almost 13,000 individuals who have been reported as having West Nile virus since 1999 have been seriously ill, and more than 1,200 have died.

In the state of Ohio, as of July 27, 2012, 18 counties have had positive mosquitoes for the West Nile virus. One (1) human case has been confirmed and one (1) positive blood donor has been identified. While action steps are common sense, they are essential to follow. Protection is as easy as always using a repellent with Deet, wearing protective clothing, and cleaning up mosquito breeding places.

**WNV has been found in this neighborhood and we are asking for your assistance.** As a respected member of this community, you play an important role by maintaining your property which assists in helping the people in your community protect themselves from infection. You are being asked to help reduce the number of mosquitoes in your yard by completing the following:

- Drain away any sources of standing water.
- Empty water from flower pots, pet food containers, birdbaths, swimming pools, boat covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- Check for clogged rain gutters on your house and clean them out.
- Remove discarded tires, and other items that could collect water.
- Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your patio or home.
- Trim back overgrown trees, bushes and plants.

The Greene County Combined Health District will be in the neighborhood this week, weather permitting, spraying Anvil 2 +2; a pesticide that is used to kill adult mosquitoes. Spraying will either be taking place at dawn or at dusk along the streets. Continued trapping will also be occurring in your neighborhood.

Thank you in advance for your partnership role on behalf of this important public health effort.