



Lake County General Health District

NEWS RELEASE
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LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

LAKE COUNTY WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) NEWS: FIRST POSITIVE WNV MOSQUITOES OF THE 2016 SEASON

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) announces that Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has confirmed one positive mosquito pool for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Lake County. A “pool” is a collection of no more than 50 mosquitoes. Although this particular positive pool was collected at a Mentor trap site on July 22, 2016, it is likely that positive WNV mosquitoes are present throughout the county.

Identifying a positive pool is confirmation that the WNV threat is present and will likely increase for the rest of the summer. Positive WNV mosquitoes have also been reported in eight Ohio counties this season. To date, there have been no human cases of WNV reported in Ohio.

West Nile Virus Disease Incidence, Ohio 2002 – 2015

Year	# Cases
2002	441
2003	108
2004	12
2005	61
2006	48
2007	23
2008	15
2009	2
2010	5
2011	21
2012	122
2013	24
2014	11
2015	35
Total	928

Source: Ohio Department of Health
Data as of 11-5-2015

Please remember that West Nile Virus is native to Lake County and Ohio since 2001 and will continue to be a long term, public health threat. Do your part to control breeding sites. Here are some tips for homeowners to reduce the risk of getting WNV:

- Dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools, plastic covers or other containers that collect and hold water.
- Keep roof gutters unclogged. Clean gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs. Keep them covered when empty.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted trays at least once a week, if not more often.
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches, and swampy areas and either remove, drain, or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar.
- Contact the health department with concerns regarding malfunctioning septic systems.
- Eliminate standing water around animal watering troughs.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.
- Avoid being outside from dusk until dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you cannot avoid those times, use an insect repellent.
- Use an [insect repellent](#) containing Picaridin or DEET. Use repellents according to label instructions. Take special care when using insect repellents on children. Wash treated skin and clothing after returning indoors.
- Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks if you go outside when mosquitoes are most active (from dusk until dawn).
- Make sure window and door screens are “bug tight”. Repair or replace torn screens.

Please call the LCGHD at (440) 350-2543 with questions concerning mosquito control or West Nile Virus. Additional WNV and mosquito information can be found at:

Ohio Dept. of Health: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/wnv.aspx>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

LCGHD: <http://www.lcghd.org/>

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Our Mission: *Working to prevent disease, promote health, and protect our community*