



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Mosquito Treatment Scheduled for August 10 in Select Pittsburgh Neighborhoods

PITTSBURGH – Recent samples of mosquitoes collected from Pittsburgh’s Perry South, Allegheny Center, Mt. Washington, and Beltzhoover neighborhoods have tested positive for West Nile virus.

In response, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) will treat parts of those areas using a truck-mounted, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayer on Monday, August 10, between the hours of 8 and 10 p.m. The treatment is intended to decrease the mosquito population and minimize the risk of transmission of the virus. In the event of rain, the spraying will take place the following day, on Tuesday, August 11, during the same hours. The product used is a mosquito pesticide called Zenivex. It is not harmful to humans and pets.

Health Department officials urge the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water in yards and neighborhoods, making sure that open window and doors have screens, and using insect repellent on exposed skin, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. When used as directed, insect repellent is the best way to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

Complaints regarding properties with stagnant water in tires, unmaintained swimming pools or other water-holding containers can be reported to the Health Department’s Housing and Community Environment program by calling 412-350-4046.

Between 70-80% of people that become infected with West Nile virus (<http://bit.ly/2LCDxZX>), do not develop any symptoms and are not impacted in any way. Approximately 20% who become infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with these symptoms will recover completely and can recover on their own. Less than 1% of people infected with the virus will develop severe symptoms of neurologic illness caused by inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues. Anyone who believes they, or someone they know, has West Nile virus, should consult a healthcare provider for evaluation and diagnosis.

There have been no reported human cases of West Nile virus identified in Allegheny County in 2020.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), mosquito control and surveillance should continue, even during the current COVID-19 public health emergency. The two agencies put out a joint statement on the topic in July that is available here: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928a6.htm?s_cid=mm6928a6_w. ACHD agrees with the assessment by the CDC and EPA. These activities are critical to preventing mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus from infecting the residents of the county. The products that ACHD will be using have been registered and approved by the EPA to perform their intended function without unreasonable risk to people or the environment, including during this pandemic.

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