



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Melissa Wade
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 office
412-339-7995 cell
mwade@achd.net

Mosquito Treatment Scheduled for August 5 in Munhall and Homestead

PITTSBURGH – Recent samples of mosquitoes taken from the areas of Munhall and Homestead have tested positive for West Nile virus. In response, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) will treat neighborhoods using a truck-mounted, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayer tomorrow night, Wednesday, August 5, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The treatment is intended to decrease the mosquito population and minimize the risk of transmission of the virus.

Spraying will be targeted in the residential areas of Munhall and Homestead, between East 10th and East 16th Avenues as well as neighborhoods adjacent to the Homestead Cemetery. In the event of rain, the treatment will take place the following day, on August 6, during the same hours.

The product used will be a new mosquito pesticide called Zenivex. It kills adult mosquitoes, but is very safe and harmless to people and pets. It will be released at just 1.5 - 3 ounces per acre and provides excellent knockdown of mosquitoes.

ACHD officials urge the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water in yards and neighborhoods, using insect repellent on exposed skin and minimizing time spent outdoors, 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. The risk of infection is highest for people who work outside or participate in outdoor activities because of greater exposure to mosquitoes.

Seventy to 80% of people who become infected with West Nile virus 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. This year to date, there have been no human cases of the West Nile virus identified in Allegheny County.

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KAREN HACKER, MD, MPH, DIRECTOR
ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 687-ACHD • FAX (412) 578-8325 • WWW.ACHD.NET

