



BETHEL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health Advisory

September 1, 2010

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program announced today that:

- We are at peak virus activity time for West Nile Virus transmission in CT now.
- The highest concentrations of WNV positive mosquitoes are from Greenwich to New Haven along the I-95 corridor.
- CT has three positive human cases at this time (2 positive in state and one positive from traveling out of state)

More WNV cases are anticipated due to amplification of WNV activity in mosquitoes during the month of September 2010 until the hard frost in October. "Circulation of West Nile virus in mosquitoes continues to intensify," said Theodore G. Andreadis, Ph.D., Chief Medical Entomologist, CAES. "Over the next several weeks, we will probably see infected mosquitoes in more Fairfield County towns and in other Connecticut counties as well. *"Today's announcement regarding West Nile virus positive mosquitoes underscores the importance for Connecticut residents to take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites."* Residents should remain vigilant and can prevent West Nile Virus and mosquito bites by using personal protection measures, and implementing environmental strategies to prevent standing water and mosquito breeding on residential properties.

The following personal precautions are advised:

- If you must be outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, wear long sleeve shirts and long pants
- Use insect repellent when outdoors and use them according to label instructions
- When using DEET (the active ingredient) on children, use a product containing less than 10% DEET and wash treated skin after returning indoors or follow pediatrician guidance

The following environmental measures are advised to help reduce mosquitoes around the home and property:

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, tire swings
- Clean clogged roof gutters
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows, change bird bath water every 7 days with new water
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and when pools are covered do not let standing water accumulate
- Use landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property
- Use of BTI biological dunks in stagnant standing water that cannot be eliminated prevents mosquitoes from breeding in that stagnant water

The Town of Bethel has a comprehensive larviciding program implemented by a larviciding company who distributes larvicide (BTI) to lessen the number of mosquitoes around high volume public areas including public grounds, schools, catch basins, and road drainage ditches. However, residents still need to take action to prevent mosquito bites.

For information on West Nile virus and what you can do to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

Bethel Health Department public health staff can be reached at 203.794-8539.

2010 West Nile Virus Activity

