

TOWN OF GREENWICH

MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Presented in cooperation with

Department of Health
Conservation Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation

FACTS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

- Currently 49 species of mosquitoes are in Connecticut, 200 in North America and about 2,500 species worldwide. Of the 49 Connecticut species, approximately half are considered pest species to humans and livestock. In Connecticut, the mosquito-breeding season is generally from late March through September.
- In Connecticut, West Nile Virus (WNV) has been found in multiple species of mosquitoes, including *Culex pipiens*, the house mosquito, which is a significant vector of the WNV to humans, breeds throughout the summer and may be found in all types of containers that hold water.
- Mosquitoes also transmit other diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Malaria, Yellow Fever and dog heartworm. Mosquitoes **do not transmit AIDS.**

THE MOSQUITO LIFE-CYCLE



- Since all mosquitoes spend their larval and pupal stages in water, they can always be found around water and need water to multiply.
- Many fish, birds and bats eat mosquitoes. They are pollinators like bees and butterflies.
- Mosquitoes are cold-blooded and generally do not bite when temperatures are below 50°F.

FACTS ABOUT WEST NILE VIRUS

- Never seen before in the United States, the West Nile Virus (WNV) emerged in 1999. It may have been transported to the U.S. in either birds or mosquitoes from the Middle East, Africa, Western Asia or Europe.
- In the U.S., WNV has been diagnosed in over 70 native bird species, domestic and wild animals and people. Crows are highly sensitive to the virus and crow die-offs have helped to determine the geographic distribution of the virus.
- The virus can overwinter in infected mosquitoes and possibly birds.
- The WNV is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus is not spread directly from person to person or from birds to people.
- In people, symptoms of WNV infection generally occur 5 to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. They range from a slight fever, headache, rash and swollen lymph nodes, to the rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, coma and, rarely, death.
- The elderly and persons with compromised immune systems are more likely to become seriously ill from WNV.
- There is no vaccine or specific medication for WNV; however, the risk of becoming ill from the WNV is very small.
- In Connecticut, peak human risk period for WNV is from early August through early October. When bitten by an infected mosquito, most people will have mild symptoms, such as headache and fever, or none at all.

PROPERTY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles or any water holding containers.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in yard. Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete.
- Keep rain gutters, drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use.
- Make sure your backyard pool is properly chlorinated every day. Eliminate collected water in boat or pool covers.
- Change the water in birdbaths and plant pots or drip trays at least once each week.
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes cannot hide there.
- Stagnant water bodies that do not support fish, frogs or other amphibians that eat mosquito larvae may be treated with a biological control agent such as *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti). Check with the Departments of Health and Conservation if treatment is considered.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

- Minimize time spent outdoors, especially near dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- When outdoors, wear long sleeved shirts, long pants and use mosquito repellent according to the manufacturer's directions on the label.
- Cover playpens or carriages with mosquito netting.
- When camping outdoors use mosquito-proof netting.

WNV SURVEILLANCE IN CONNECTICUT

Mosquitoes, domestic animals and people were included in surveillance systems.

- Mosquitoes are collected at 91 permanent mosquito trap sites in 72 municipalities across the state. Traps are checked weekly, from June through October. Of the 5 species of mosquitoes that have been found to carry WNV in Connecticut, the largest number of isolates have been obtained from *Culex pipiens*, the house mosquito.
- From 2010 through 2015, there were 61 reported cases of WNV disease in Connecticut. Of these, 40 cases were among residents of Fairfield County. Highest risk of transmission to people is from early August through early October.
- Connecticut's Mosquito Management Program is a collaborative effort involving 5 agencies: the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Agriculture (DOAG), and the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Connecticut (UCONN).

CONTACTS

Greenwich Department of Health www.greenwichct.org

Division of Environmental Services 203-987-1001

CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) www.ct.gov/deep

860-642-7630 – technical questions about mosquitoes and control measures

860-424-3011 – questions about dead birds

CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH) www.ct.gov/dph

860-509-7994 – WNV infections in people

860-509-7742 – effects of pesticides on people

CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) www.ct.gov/caes

203-974-8500 – mosquito trapping and testing

CT Dept. of Agriculture (DOAG) www.ct.gov/doag

860-713-2505 – WNV infections in domestic animals (livestock, poultry, and pets)

University of Connecticut Dept. of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science www.patho.uconn.edu

860-486-3738 – testing for WNV infections in domestic animals (livestock, poultry, horses, and pets)