



FOR

Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

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WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITOES FOUND IN MONROE COUNTY

Bloomington, IN – The Monroe County Health Department confirms that 1 sample from 1 pool of mosquitoes (up to 100 mosquitoes per pool) have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Monroe County. The sample was collected by the Indiana Department of Health as part of their mosquito surveillance program.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes that have first bitten an infected bird. A person who is bitten by an infected mosquito may show symptoms 3 to 15 days after the bite. Per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, most people who become infected with West Nile Virus will not feel ill, about 1 in 5 people will develop a fever and other symptoms, and about 1 out of 150 develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.

Residents can reduce their risk of getting West Nile Virus by preventing mosquito bites.

The General Environmental Division of the Monroe County Health Department wants everyone to be active in mosquito prevention. Mosquitoes need standing water for their lifecycle. A birdbath should be checked often to prevent breeding and water replaced if needed. If standing water is found after a rainfall, remove the source.

Persons who develop the following symptoms should see a doctor immediately:

- high fever,
- severe headache,
- neck stiffness,
- muscle weakness or paralysis,
- nausea or vomiting,
- sore joints, or
- confusion.



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There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus, and no vaccine is available for humans. In severe cases, intensive supportive therapy including intravenous fluids, airway management, respiratory support, prevention of secondary infections (pneumonia, urinary tract, etc.) and good nursing care are recommended.

The best way to prevent a mosquito-borne disease is to follow the "Three D's":

DRAIN - Anything that can hold water can breed mosquitoes, from soda bottle caps to discarded tires. Check your property for these sources of standing water and dump them out. At least once or twice a week, empty water from flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, cans, wheelbarrows, boats, cargo trailers, toys and any other items outside your home. Empty and store wading pools for kids on their side, and any other sources of standing water outside your home.

DRESS - Wear clothing like long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats to protect against bug bites. You can further protect yourself by tucking your pants into your boots. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants is a great way to prevent not only mosquito bites but tick bites as well.

DEFEND - Wear insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus on exposed skin when outdoors. Another effective repellent is Permethrin. Be sure to carefully follow the instructions on the labels when using these repellants.

More information on West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases is available at <https://www.in.gov/health/idepd/zoonotic-and-vectorborne-epidemiology-entomology/vector-borne-diseases/mosquito-borne-diseases/>.

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