



Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High Street,
Columbus, OH 43215

www.odh.ohio.gov

News Release

John R. Kasich / Governor
Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director



For immediate release: June 23, 2011

Media contact: Jen House, Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs (614) 644-8562

ODH confirms West Nile virus in mosquitoes in Franklin County

Ohioans reminded to take steps to prevent mosquito bites and to remove areas of standing water

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today confirmed the first evidence of West Nile virus (WNV) in Ohio in 2011 in two mosquito pools collected by the City of Columbus.

“Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile have arrived.” said ODH Director Ted Wymyslo, M.D. “To protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito bites be sure to use mosquito repellent and remove standing water from your property.”

No human or horse cases of WNV have been confirmed in 2011, but these results indicate that WNV is already active this summer in Ohio. Ohio has recorded human cases of WNV each year since 2002 when there were 441 cases. There were 108 in 2003, 12 in 2004, 61 in 2005, 48 in 2006, 23 in 2007, 15 in 2008, two in 2009 and five cases in 2010.

To avoid possible infection from mosquito bites: If you are outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, be sure to wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and socks. Light colors are least attractive to mosquitoes. Use insect repellent and follow the label directions. Mosquitoes can be active until the first frost.

To eliminate mosquito breeding sites near your home: Remove all discarded tires and other water-holding containers, such as tin cans and unused flower pots, from your property. Eliminate standing water from your property. Make sure all roof gutters are clean and properly draining. Clean and chlorinate pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Keep them empty when not in use and drain water from pool covers. Change water in bird baths weekly.

For more information on how to prevent the spread of WNV, visit www.odh.ohio.gov and search West Nile virus.