

# PICKAWAY COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 613 CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

Phone: (740) 477-9667 ♦ Fax: (740) 474-5523 ♦ Clinical Health Fax (740) 420-6102

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## **Pickaway County Mosquito Control Program – West Nile Virus Report – 9.25.2018**

The Pickaway County General Health District (PCGHD) has been conducting mosquito surveillance and control activities in Pickaway County under the Ohio EPA's Mosquito Control Grant during the summer of 2018. Mosquito Surveillance activities include mosquito trapping, dipping for larvae in stagnant water sources, and response to mosquito complaints involving tall grass, tall weeds, stagnant water locations, and scrap tire / solid waste complaints. Mosquitoes that are trapped during surveillance are sent to Ohio Department of Health to be identified and tested for West Nile Virus. PCGHD advises that residents take extra precaution to help control mosquitos and protect themselves from mosquitos that can spread diseases such as West Nile Virus or other mosquito borne diseases.

On September 25, 2018 PCGHD received a report of pools of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus located from trap sites in the following areas:

- **Williamsport/Deercreek Township**
- **Perry Township (Deer Creek Beach)**
- **Circleville**

PCGHD staff are conducting additional surveillance activities in these areas which include additional trapping of mosquitoes, public outreach, and mosquito control activities to help eliminate potential breeding sites of mosquitoes and harborage of mosquitoes.

West Nile Virus typically occurs in the summer months between June and September and can be spread to humans through a bite from an infected mosquito. According to the Centers for Disease Control, most people (70-80%) that are exposed to West Nile Virus do not show signs or symptoms of the disease, about 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop fever with other symptoms such as headache, joint pains, rash, or vomiting / diarrhea and less than 1% of people who are infected will develop serious conditions such as encephalitis or meningitis. If you experience any of these symptoms, PCGHD recommends you seek medical attention by contacting your primary care physician, urgent care, or local emergency department.

We are asking that local residents report standing water or stagnant water, tall grass or tall weed nuisances, scrap tire nuisances, solid waste nuisances or other conditions that can provide harborage for mosquitos in the area so PCGHD staff can complete additional surveillance, promote mosquito source reduction, and apply of larvicide in the area to help reduce mosquito problems. Please visit our website [www.pchd.org](http://www.pchd.org) and fill out our "Nuisance Complaint Form" to report any conditions that might contribute to an increase in mosquitoes in your area.

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**How to PROTECT yourself:** The PCGHD advises the following tips to protect yourself and children from mosquito-borne illnesses and West Nile Virus:

1. When going outdoors, wear long sleeve clothing and pants to provide a protective layer that discourages mosquitoes from biting.
2. Consider using a personal insect repellent that contains DEET. Use repellent that contains less than 10 percent or less of DEET on children. Be sure to read the product directions before application.
3. Avoid using scented products such as perfumes or cologne.
4. Avoid areas that have high populations of mosquitoes. Take extra precaution when being outdoors during hours that mosquitoes are more active (at dawn and dusk).

**How to PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING AROUND YOUR HOME:**

1. Empty water from items that can hold water, or store items that can hold water in a dry location (etc. buckets, kid pool, bird baths, scrap tires)
2. Aerate fountains to keep water moving or becoming stagnant. Properly chlorine and filter pool water to keep water from becoming stagnant.
3. Remove solid wastes and scrap tires from your property to prevent mosquito breeding sites.
4. Cut tall vegetation or grass routinely to reduce mosquito harborage around your home.
5. Keep gutters and downspouts clean of debris and adequately drained. Fill in holes or depressions in your yard that can hold stagnant water or ponding of water.

Pickaway County General Health District also has free larvicide treatments available at 110 Island Road, Suite C. The larvicide product can be used in a standing water source that cannot be dumped or removed and will kill mosquito larvae before they can develop into adult mosquitoes. Feel free to stop by our office and obtain the larvicide product for use at your home. To report mosquito problems or complaints, or if you have additional questions about West Nile Virus or other mosquito borne illnesses, or have questions about our mosquito surveillance program, please call 740-477-9667 or visit our website at [www.pchd.org](http://www.pchd.org).