



# PLAINVILLE-SOUTHINGTON REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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## **DPH Confirms West Nile Virus in Connecticut Resident** *PSHD Reminds Residents to Follow Personal Protection Measures*

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has confirmed the first positive case of West Nile virus in a Waterbury resident today. The resident is between 40-49 years of age and is recuperating. The State Mosquito Management Program detected positive pools of mosquitoes trapped in Newington in July. The Plainville Southington Health District (PSHD) encourages residents to take personal and homeowner precautions to limit their exposure to mosquitoes, particularly in the hours around dusk and dawn.

“The identification of mosquitoes carrying WNV is no surprise,” said Shane Lockwood, PSHD Director of Health. “We expect to continue to see positive mosquitoes throughout the state over the next few months. Vigilance in removing standing water on residential and town-owned property can decrease one’s chances of contracting WNV.”

To prevent WNV:

- Limit outdoor activities from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear clothing that minimizes bare skin.
- Use mosquito repellents on clothing.

- Follow the directions on labels for insecticides or repellents.
- Cover arms and legs of children playing near standing water.
- Cover playpens or carriages with mosquito netting.
- Remove objects that can hold standing water such as tin cans, tires, buckets, or bottles.
- Fill in holes, ditches, or tree trunks with sand or cement.
- Clean house gutters on a regular basis.
- Empty wading pools and bird baths every 4-7 days.
- Chlorinate swimming pools regularly.
- Eliminate collected water on boat and pool covers.
- Avoid over-watering of lawns.
- Fix holes in screens and attach properly to windows.

In 2019, WNV was detected in 82 pools of mosquitoes from 23 towns. The majority of WNV activity was detected in densely populated urban and suburban regions in Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven counties, which is consistent with prior years.

For more information contact PSHD at 860-276-6275.

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The mission of the Plainville Southington Health District is to preserve, protect, promote, and improve the quality of life in a healthy environment through the prevention of disease, ongoing health education opportunities and the enhancement of the well-being of its residents.