



City of Milford, Connecticut

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Milford Health Department Urges to Protect Against West Nile Virus

The Milford Health Department's Mosquito Control Program focuses on preventive efforts through mosquito breeding site reduction, especially in densely populated areas, and education about personal protection. "Now that we are well into summer it's important for everyone in the community to take a few minutes to walk around their own property to check for containers that can collect water and in turn breed mosquitoes." said Dr. McBride, Milford Director of Health.

The State Mosquito Management Program found that mosquitoes trapped in West Haven on July 24, 2007 have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These are the first positive mosquitoes identified in West Haven by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. Previously, WNV-positive mosquitoes were trapped in Manchester on June 27. The mosquito control program in Milford started in late April with monitoring of the wetlands habitats and currently, larviciding continues throughout the City.

The Milford Health Department is reminding residents to reduce mosquitoes around the home by:

- Disposing of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, etc. outside the house.
- Drilling holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling to keep them drained.
- Cleaning clogged roof gutters.
- Turning over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Changing water in birdbaths on a weekly basis.
- Cleaning and chlorinating swimming pools, and covering the pool when not in use.
- Using landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

To avoid mosquito bites:

- Minimize time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Cover infant carriers with mosquito netting.



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- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions. The most effective repellents contain DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus is also effective for brief periods of exposure.
- When using DEET, use the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately 2 hours and 20% for 4 hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors.
- Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than 2 months.
- Permethrin-containing repellents (e.g., Permanone) are recommended for use on clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear. Remember: don't use permethrin on skin.

For questions regarding the mosquito control program in Milford, please contact the Milford Health Department at 203-783-3285.