

Henry County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

August 17, 2016

Henry County Health Department Public Notice: West Nile Activity confirmed in Henry County

The Indiana State Department of Health traps mosquitoes throughout the state to monitor for disease transmission. Mosquitoes collected in Henry County on July 26, 2016, tested positive for West Nile Virus. This brings the total in Indiana to 43 West Nile positive mosquito pools thus far in 2016. There has been 1 confirmed human case of West Nile Virus in Indiana this year, in Marion County.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people by infected mosquitoes. In the United States, most people are infected from June through September. The Indiana State Department of Health along with the Henry County Health Department would like to remind citizens to use caution when being active outside.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease is to avoid mosquito bites:

- Use EPA-registered insect repellents when you go outdoors, such as DEET, Picardin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. When used as directed, these EPA-registered repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months of age.
- Wear long sleeves and pants during dusk to dawn.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning, if you have it.
- Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in and near standing water.
 - Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or thrown out items that hold water.
 - Check inside and outside of your home for water in items such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers and make sure rain gutters are clear.

Culex mosquitoes are the known carriers of West Nile disease in Indiana, and the female Culex mosquito bites from evening to morning, especially at dusk and dawn. The above precautions are especially important during this time. The risk for mosquito-borne disease will last until the first hard freeze, usually late October.

For more information, visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at www.in.gov/isdh or contact the Henry County Health Department- Environmental Division by email at environmental@henryco.net or by phone at (765) 521-7056.