



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Health Department Announces August 1 Mosquito Treatment *Select Areas Include Point Breeze, Homewood, Wilkesburg and Penn Hills*

PITTSBURGH – Recent samples of mosquitoes collected from the City of Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze and Homewood neighborhoods, and from the Borough of Wilkesburg and Municipality of Penn Hills, have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

In response, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) will treat those areas using a truck-mounted, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayer on Wednesday, August 1, between the hours of 8-10:30 p.m. In the event of rain, the treatment will take place the following day, on Thursday, August 2, during the same hours.

The product used will be a mosquito pesticide called Zenivex E20, and it will be released at a rate of just 0.6 ounces per acre. The pesticide kills adult mosquitoes, but is not harmful to people and pets.

The treatment is intended to decrease the mosquito population and minimize the risk of transmission of West Nile Virus (WNV). Last week, the first probable case of WNV was reported in Allegheny County. The resident, a male in his early 70s who lives in the Municipality of Penn Hills, was bitten in mid-July by a WNV-carrying Culex mosquito.

Health Department officials urge the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water in yards and neighborhoods, making sure that open window and doors have screens, using insect repellent on exposed skin and minimizing time spent outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. When used as directed, insect repellent is the best way to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

Complaints regarding properties with stagnant water in tires, unmaintained swimming pools or other water-holding containers can be reported to the Health Department’s Housing and Community Environment program by calling 412-350-4046.

Between 70-80% of people that become infected with West Nile virus (<http://bit.ly/2LCDxZX>) do not develop any symptoms, and are not impacted in any way. Approximately 20% who become infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with these symptoms will recover completely, and can recover on their own. Less than 1% of people infected with the virus will develop severe symptoms of neurologic illness caused by inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues.

Anyone who believes they, or someone they know, has West Nile virus, should consult a healthcare provider for evaluation and diagnosis.

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