



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ALWAYS INSPIRING

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 10, 2018

**Contact:** Ryan Scarpino  
Public Health Information Officer  
412-578-8312 (office)  
412-339-7995 (cell)  
[Ryan.Scarpino@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:Ryan.Scarpino@AlleghenyCounty.us)

## Health Department Reports Sixth West Nile Virus Case of 2018

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced today that the county has its sixth probable human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) this year. The resident lives in Bellevue, is over the age of 50, and is recovering.

West Nile is a virus most commonly spread to people by mosquito bites. Cases occur mostly during mosquito season, which runs April through November. WNV is not transmitted from person-to-person. Anyone who believes they, or someone they know, has West Nile virus, should consult their healthcare provider for evaluation and diagnosis.

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. Property owners should also cut back hedges, shrubs and other greenery where mosquitoes can find shelter.

Mosquitos breed in catch basins, artificial containers, and other sources of stagnant water in urban and suburban backyards. Removing standing water on a resident's property is their best defense against mosquitoes.

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

West Nile Virus has been regularly found in Allegheny County since 2002. From 2013-2017 there were six reported cases in Allegheny County (0 in 2013, 1 in 2014, 3 in 2015, 0 in 2016, and 2 in 2017).

For more information on WNV, including frequently asked questions about prevention, symptoms and transmission, visit: <http://bit.ly/2LCDxZX>.

###

Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director

**Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office**

542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325 | [www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment)

---

Follow us: [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)