FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2021

Contact: Chris Togneri
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 (office)
412-339-7995 (cell)
Christopher.Togneri@AlleghenyCounty.us

PITTSBURGH – Recent samples of mosquitoes collected in Pittsburgh’s North Side tested positive for West Nile virus.

In response, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) will treat several North Side neighborhoods—including Allegheny Center, California-Kirkbride, Perry South, Central North Side and Brighton Heights—with a mosquito pesticide called Zenivex E20 that is not harmful to humans or pets. Crews will use a truck-mounted, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayer on Wednesday, August 11, from 8 PM to 10 PM to lower the local mosquito population and minimize the risk of human transmission. In the event of rain, the spraying will take place August 16 during the same hours.

ACHD officials urge the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water in yards, making sure that open windows and doors have screens, and using insect repellent on exposed skin, 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 can be reported here.

According to the CDC, between 70 and 80 percent of people that become infected with West Nile virus do not develop symptoms and are not impacted. Approximately 20 percent 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 one percent 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.

There have been no reported human cases of West Nile virus in Allegheny County since 2018.

# # #