

## How do I know when my neighborhood is being sprayed?

- Sign up to receive Health Department updates, including when sprayings will occur at: [www.chesco.org/health/updates](http://www.chesco.org/health/updates), or scan the QR code with a mobile device.



- Like us on Facebook. ([www.facebook.com/chestercountyhealthdepartment](http://www.facebook.com/chestercountyhealthdepartment))
- Follow us on Twitter. ([www.twitter.com/chescohealth](http://www.twitter.com/chescohealth))
- Sign up for ReadyNotifyPA. (<http://www.readynotifypa.org/>)
- Residents in a designated spray area who are listed as hypersensitive are contacted directly by health department staff.
- Visit our website at <http://chesco.org/wnv>.

In addition to the methods of notification listed above, news releases alerting the public to sprayings are sent out at least 48 hours in advance of a treatment to the local media, legislators, and Chester County municipalities.

For chemical sensitive residents, contact the PA Department of Agriculture for information regarding the Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry at 717.772.5231.

Chester County Health Department



*Protecting You and Your Environment*



*Chester County Health Department*

*Chester County Commissioners*

# Chester County Health Department



## West Nile Virus Program

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[www.chesco.org/health](http://www.chesco.org/health)

*"Protecting You and Your Environment"*

## What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

WNV is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe that it is now a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

## What are the Symptoms?

**SEVERE:** About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. Severe symptoms include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

**MILD:** Up to 20% of people who get WNV will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash.

**NO SYMPTOMS:** Four out of five people (80%) infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.

## How is WNV Spread?

**Infected Mosquitoes.** Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

**Transfusions, Transplants, and Mother-to-Child.** In a very small number of cases, WNV also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby.

WNV is **not** spread through touching or kissing a person with the virus.

## WNV Surveillance and Control

Health Department Environmental Specialists use trap samples to estimate mosquito population size, species and activity in Chester County.

**Gravid Trap** - collects adult mosquitoes looking to lay eggs. The traps are placed on the ground overnight as mosquitoes are attracted to the water placed in the trap.



**Light Trap** - collects adult mosquitoes looking for a blood meal. Traps are hung from tree limbs. Dry ice is placed inside the trap as mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide which is emitted from the dry ice.



## Reduce Mosquitos in your Community

Remove or clean up any mosquito-breeding sites on your property. Stagnant water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes:

- Do not leave trash cans outside uncovered.
- Keep wading pools covered or emptied.
- Get rid of old tires.
- Wheelbarrows, pots, plastic containers, etc should be turned over so as to not collect water.
- Do not allow water in bird baths to become stagnant.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers to eliminate standing water.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Be sure your window screens are in good condition.
- Keep roof gutters clean, particularly if leaves from surrounding trees tend to plug drains.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools when not in use.

Stagnant pools of water on your property can be treated with BTI products available at local lawn and garden supply stores. This naturally-occurring bacterial product kills mosquito larvae but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants.

## Protect yourself & your Family

- Make sure that screens doors and windows fit tightly to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Reduce outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Consider wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, icoaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Be sure to follow manufacturer instructions before applying. Insect repellent is not recommended for infants under 2 months of age.