



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For more information call 610-344-6752

## **Mosquito control treatment scheduled for Thornbury and Birmingham Townships to prevent West Nile Virus**

**West Chester, PA** – The Chester County Health Department will conduct a mosquito control treatment spray in portions of Thornbury and Birmingham Townships ([map of treatment area](#)). The treatment is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm. The rain date for this event is Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm.**

The Chester County Health Department conducts mosquito control treatment in areas with high levels of mosquito activity and where multiple mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). After exhausting all other available mosquito control strategies, spraying is conducted to reduce residents' risk of WNV infection. Anyone living in an area where mosquitoes are infected with WNV is at risk, but the risk of infection is highest for people who work outside or participate in outdoor activities. Less than 1% of people infected will develop serious illness. While serious illness can occur in people of any age, people over 60 years of age, people who have received organ transplants, and people with certain medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and kidney disease are at the greatest risk for serious illness.

The Chester County Health Department uses a truck-mounted sprayer to apply 1.5 ounces of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved product ([Permanone](#) or [DeltaGard](#)) per acre of land. Sprays are conducted after sunset, when mosquitoes are most active and bees have returned

to their hives. Sprayers are turned off near bodies of water and apiaries to protect aquatic life and bees. The Chester County Health Department also notifies beekeepers and residents who are listed as hypersensitive in a designated spray area prior to conducting a spray. People who are concerned about exposure to mosquito control products can reduce their potential for exposure by staying indoors with children and pets when their neighborhood is being sprayed. Because the mosquito control spray becomes inactive in just a few hours or with sunshine, it is not necessary to wash off outdoor furniture or playground equipment before use.

Although spraying helps to reduce mosquito populations, the Chester County Health Department encourages residents to “Make You and Your Home a Bite-Free Zone” to prevent WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases. Because mosquito-borne diseases are spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, residents can reduce their risk by using insect repellent and other personal protection and getting rid of standing water on their property.

The Health Department advises:

- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk during warmer months. Most types of mosquitoes bite most frequently during these times, although some types of mosquitoes bite most frequently during the daytime.
- Dress in long sleeves, long pants, and socks. Choose clothing that is light colored and made of tightly woven material.
- Use insect repellents containing active ingredients registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use on skin and clothing.
  - Products containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide longer-lasting protection.
  - Follow manufacturer instructions when applying repellent.
- Wear permethrin-treated clothing or spray your clothing with permethrin, which repels mosquitoes and lasts through 70-100 washings.

The Health Department also encourages the public to:

- Cover or empty containers such as trash cans, wading pools, wheelbarrows, and pots.
- Turn containers upside down when not in use so they don't collect water.

- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Get rid of old tires.
- Change the water in bird baths every three to five days.
- Check storm drains, window wells, and underneath leaky faucets for standing water.
- Clean roof gutters every year.
- Aerate and/or stock ornamental ponds with fish.
- Keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated. Make sure that water does not gather on swimming pool covers.
- Treat a pool of standing water that cannot be drained with Bti products. Bti is a naturally-occurring bacterial product that kills mosquito larvae and is safe for people, pets, aquatic life, and plants. You can find these products at local lawn and garden supply stores.
- Make sure that window and door screens fit tightly to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Run electric fans nearby when spending time outdoors. Mosquitoes have trouble flying in strong winds.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow "bug" lights, which tend to attract fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights.

For more information on mosquito control sprays, call 610-344-6752. For information on preventing mosquito-borne diseases, visit [www.chesco.org/mosquitoes](http://www.chesco.org/mosquitoes). Chester County residents can be notified about future mosquito control sprays through the following outlets:

- [Chester County Website](#)
- [Sign up for the Health Department mailing list](#)
- [Health Department Facebook](#)
- [Health Department Twitter](#)

*The Chester County Health Department is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. This program requires participants to affirm that environmental stewardship is an integral part of their integrated pest management (IPM) practice, use current, comprehensive information regarding the life cycle of mosquitoes within their IPM program, educate the community on the benefits of IPM, and demonstrate a commitment to pesticide risk reduction activities.*