

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

State Mosquito Monitoring Program Underway

June 6, 2018

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program has announced that the seasonal mosquito trapping and testing program coordinated by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) began on June 4th. The program monitors the types, numbers and locations of mosquitoes and tests them for the presence of viruses that can cause illness including West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE). First test results will be available starting mid-June. There are 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities throughout Connecticut, including one in Killingworth.

Mosquito breeding picks up as the weather warms. According to the CAES, WNV infected mosquitoes are historically identified early to mid-July each year while EEE (generally confined to the southeastern region of the state) is not expected until later in the summer.

Last season, the CAES trapped and tested nearly 200,000 mosquitoes and identified WNV-positive mosquitoes at trap sites in 30 towns in 6 counties (Fairfield, Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham). Last year there were three human cases of WNV in residents of New Haven and Stamford.

How can I protect myself and my family?

- Empty standing water from plastic containers, ceramic pots, tires or similar water holding containers that may be on your property. Mosquitoes only need a few tablespoons of water to lay eggs.
- Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. A wading pool becomes a mosquito producer if it is not used on a regular basis.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in bird baths. Change water in bird baths and wading pools on a weekly basis.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. A swimming pool that is left untended by a family that goes on vacation for a month can produce a significant

amount of mosquitoes. Be aware that mosquitoes also breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers, boat covers and tarps.

- Place bat houses on your property.

Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes can develop in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days during the summer.

Bug zappers are not recommended. They attract few mosquitoes and may actually kill beneficial insect predators.

For more information on WNV and EEE, what can be done to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, and the latest mosquito test results and human infections, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

Please contact the Killingworth Health Department at (860) 663-1765 x223 should you have any questions or need any additional information.

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