

# **TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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## **Press Release**

**August 1, 2018**

### **WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN MORE TOWNS**

Killingworth residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. The warning comes as the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) continues to identify West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitos in CT towns. As of August 1, 2018, 62 positive WNV mosquitoes have been identified in 23 towns. To date, 1,331 mosquitoes have been tested from the Killingworth trap site, all negative for WNV.

The CT Department of Public Health advises that mosquito-borne illness is a threat to take seriously, especially from now until well into September. Residents are encouraged to prevent mosquito bites by eliminating standing water around their home, making sure door and window screens are in good repair, and covering bare skin and using insect repellent when outside – especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

The CAES has stated that the current indicators suggest a very active season for WNV. The mosquito populations are building, and will continue to do so, especially with the persistence of hot-muggy weather.

No human or horse cases have been reported with WNV-associated illnesses in Connecticut this season. Since 2000, 134 human cases of WNV have been diagnosed in Connecticut residents including three fatalities.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes residents should:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods, or when mosquitoes are most active. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect small babies when outdoors.
- Consider the use of mosquito repellent, according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors.

Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <http://www.ct.gov/caes/mosquitotesting>.

For information on West Nile virus and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at [www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://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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