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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Miami County Public Health reports additional positive testing for
West Nile virus in mosquitoes**

TROY, OH (8/9/2018) – Miami County Public Health (MCPH) received notice from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that West Nile virus was detected in mosquitoes collected in two separate areas in Miami County on or before the morning of July 24. One area was on the south side of Troy in Kensington Park on Renwick Way in Troy. The other area was in Kyle Park on South First St. in Tipp City. Tipp City fogged for mosquitoes in Kyle Park in the evening on July 24.

Troy Mayor Michael Beamish declared that the City of Troy will fog all of its rights-of-way starting Monday night at 9:30 p.m. for approximately six hours per night. Fogging will continue each night at that same time to ensure that the pesticide is at its maximum effectiveness but after children and at risk adults would normally be indoors. “As I’ve stated, this is a very unusual season and we want to take proactive action to ensure we eliminate as much of the potential for spreading West Nile Virus as possible. However, all the fogging in the world won’t prevent cases from cropping up this year,” he stated.

MCPH staff will survey both areas to identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding places. Also, additional mosquito traps will be set as a follow up in these areas.

West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals when they bite. West Nile virus is now established in Ohio where cases occur each year and seasonal epidemics can flare up under certain conditions in the summer and continue into the fall.





According to ODH, there have been no human cases reported so far this year in Miami County, but Ohio has seen 2 human cases in Ross and Lake Counties. Across the state of Ohio this year there have been 35 counties report West Nile virus Activity, including positive mosquito tests and cases of the virus in humans and horses. ODH has identified over 1000 positive mosquito tests in 2018 in Ohio.

According to the CDC, Most people (8 out of 10) infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months. About 1 in 150 people who are infected develop a severe illness affecting the central nervous system such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord).

The best way to protect yourself and your family from West Nile virus is to avoid mosquitoes and mosquito bites. It is recommended that you:

- Use EPA registered repellants when you go outdoors
- Avoid outdoor activity during peak mosquito biting hours (dusk to dawn)
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when you go outdoors
- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outside
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers.

For more information, contact Miami County Public Health at 937-573-3500 or go to www.miamicountyhealth.net .

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