



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seth Lisinski, West Nile Virus Program Coordinator

Mosquito Spraying Set for Uwchlan Township and West Goshen Township Chester County to control West Nile Virus threat

WEST CHESTER, PA_ Weather permitting, the Chester County Health Department will apply mosquito control treatments the evening of **Wednesday, July 29, 2009** in **Spring Run Park and Shamona Park** of **Uwchlan Township** and **Barker Park** of **West Goshen Township**. In the event of a weather delay, application will be conducted on **Thursday, July 30, 2009** or **Friday, July 31, 2009**.

Mosquito samples taken in this area by the Chester County Health Department's West Nile Virus Program staff and/or by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection West Nile Virus program staff have shown high adult mosquito populations **that have the potential** to be carriers of the West Nile Virus.

The treatment will be administered during the evening hours with ATV mounted equipment to spray target areas of the townships. The equipment dispenses Permanone RTU, a permethrin insecticide product, at a rate of 1.5 ounces per acre. **It is recommended that residents stay indoors and close windows during treatment.**

Certain mosquito species carry the West Nile virus, which, when transmitted to people, can cause West Nile encephalitis, an infection that can result in an inflammation of the brain.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all residents in areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of getting West Nile encephalitis.

The Chester County Health Department warns that, although spraying is conducted to help reduce the mosquito populations, treatments cannot totally eliminate mosquitoes and residents should take precautions to help reduce contact with mosquitoes and mosquito breeding.

Individuals can take a number of measures around the home to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas, including:

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.

"Protecting You and Your Environment"

- Pay attention to discarded tires. Stagnant water is where most mosquitoes breed.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor recycling containers.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned every year, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug drains. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Stagnant water in a wading pool becomes a place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths. Both provide breeding habitats for domestic mosquitoes.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens can become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use. A swimming pool left untended by a family on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood-wide complaints. Mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on pool covers.
- For stagnant pools of water, homeowners can buy Bti products at lawn and garden, outdoor supply, home improvement and other stores. This naturally occurring bacterial product kills mosquito larvae but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants.

In addition, the Chester County Health Department advises residents to take simple precautions to prevent mosquito bites, particularly for people who are most at risk:

- Make sure screens fit tightly over doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, particularly when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, or in areas known for having large numbers of mosquitoes.
- When possible, reduce outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk during peak mosquito periods, usually April through October.
- Use insect repellants according to the manufacturer's instructions. An effective repellant will contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Consult with a pediatrician or family physician if you have questions about the use of repellant on children, as repellant is not recommended for children under the age of two months

For more information about West Nile virus, visit the Chester County Health Department's website at <http://dsf.chesco.org/health> and click on Disease Information/West Nile Virus or call the Chester County Health Department at 610-344-6752.