



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



## COMMISSIONERS

Terence Farrell  
Carol Aichele  
Kathi Cozzone

MARGARET C. RIVELLO, M.B.A.  
County Health Director

## CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chester County Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Road, Suite 290  
West Chester, PA 19380-0990  
610-344-6225 FAX: 610-344-6727  
www.chesco.org/health

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information call 610-344-6455

### **Mosquito Spraying Set for Thornbury Township Chester County to Control West Nile Virus Threat**

WEST CHESTER, PA - Weather permitting, the Chester County Health Department will apply a mosquito control treatment the evening of **Thursday, August 27, 2009** in the area southwest of the Route 926 and Route 202 intersection in **Thornbury Township** (Brandywine at Thornbury Development). In the event of a weather delay, the application will be conducted on **Tuesday September 1, 2009**.

Mosquito samples taken in these areas have shown high adult mosquito populations that have the potential to be carriers of the West Nile Virus.

Treatments will be administered during the evening hours with truck-mounted and ATV-mounted equipment. 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 keep windows closed 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. All residents in areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of getting West Nile encephalitis.

Margaret Rivello, County Health Director, warns that "Although spraying is conducted to help reduce the mosquito populations, treatments cannot totally eliminate mosquitoes. Residents should take precautions to help reduce contact with mosquitoes and breeding areas."

The Health Department recommends the following precautions to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas:

- Dispose of open containers on your property that may collect water, such as tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, etc.
- Keep your property clear of old tires or avoid areas where they may be stored.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor recycling containers so that water will not collect.
- Clean roof gutters, particularly if leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug drains.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.

*"Protecting You and Your Environment"*

- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools when 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/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, take these simple precautions to prevent mosquito bites:

- 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 the summer.
- Use insect repellants. An effective repellant will contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always be sure to follow the manufacturer label directions. 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 on West Nile Virus, visit the [Health Department's website](#) or call 610-344-6455.

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