



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

123 Huntington Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203.974.8500

Toll free: 1.877.855.2237

Fax: 203.974.8502

Email: caes@ct.gov • portal.ct.gov/caes

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday June 26, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dr. Philip Armstrong

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

203-974-8510

Philip.Armstrong@ct.gov

John Shepard

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

203-974-8517

John.Shepard@ct.gov

State Reports Positive Mosquitoes for West Nile Virus in New Haven *First WNV-Positive Mosquito Pool of Season*

New Haven – The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program (MMP) announced that mosquitoes trapped in New Haven on June 17 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These results represent the first WNV positive mosquitoes identified in the state by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. Connecticut residents are reminded to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases.

“The first West Nile virus positive mosquitoes of the season have been identified,” said John Shepard, Medical Entomologist at the CAES. “This is one of the earlier detections of virus recorded during the last 25 years of the statewide monitoring program.”

"We will continue to closely monitor mosquitoes for early virus amplification" said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Chief Scientist at the CAES. "The abundant rainfall and warm weather have increased mosquito activity this season. We encourage everyone to take simple measures such as wearing mosquito repellent and covering bare skin, especially during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active."

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 of time, or when mosquitoes are more 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.

Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

- Consider the use of an EPA-registered mosquito repellent, according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors.

The response to mosquito transmitted diseases in Connecticut is a collaborative inter-agency effort involving the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). These agencies are responsible for monitoring mosquito populations and the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

The CAES maintains a network of 108 mosquito-trapping stations in 88 municipalities throughout the state. Mosquito traps are set Monday – Thursday nights at each site every ten days on a rotating basis and then at least once a week after detection of virus. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) for testing according to species, collection site, and date. Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Mosquito-Testing/Introductory/State-of-Connecticut-Mosquito-Trapping-and-Arbovirus-Testing-Program>.

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

###