



LOGAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent · Promote · Protect

Press Release

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES YOU TO FIGHT MOSQUITOES

With the onset of warm weather, mosquitoes are becoming more active which increases the threat of mosquito-related diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV). West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by WNV which is transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes. During warm weather months, the Logan County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) reminds everyone to take precautions to eliminate breeding areas around your home and to avoid mosquito bites. Precautions to prevent mosquitoes include:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Contact a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that might have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and other receptacles. Contact your local municipal government or the Logan County Department of Public Health to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

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If you are bitten by a mosquito, there is no reason to be tested for WNV since illnesses related to mosquito bites are rare. However, if you develop symptoms such as high fever, confusion, muscle weakness or severe headache, you should see your doctor.

Through a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the LCDPH will monitor mosquito activity through October 15th. Monitoring includes the collection and submittal of dead birds to the State of Illinois laboratory for WNV testing. The Logan County Department of Public Health would appreciate your help. If you observe a bird that has been dead less than 24 hours which appears to have died of natural causes, please contact the health department to see if it qualifies for testing.

In addition to collecting birds, the health department will be trapping and testing pools of mosquitos for the WNV activity during much of the summer. If you observe the traps, please do not touch them as this could interfere with the monitoring process. If you have questions regarding prevention of mosquito-related diseases or how to further prevent their breeding, you can contact the Logan County Department of Public Health at 217-735-2317 or visit their website at WWW.LCDPH.ORG for more information.

Information Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

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