



COVID-19 Mosquito Program Update

The Delaware General Health District maintains an active mosquito program to inform and protect the residents of Delaware County from mosquito-borne disease. During the mosquito season (typically May—October), the DGHD monitors 23 traps around the county. Mosquitoes are collected and sorted throughout the week and sent to the Ohio Department of Health laboratory for identification and testing for West Nile Virus (WNV) weekly. Mosquito trapping is a tool to determine when WNV becomes active in a community. West Nile Virus can be detected in mosquitoes four weeks before it is found in people. In response to mosquito breeding grounds, positive traps and human case of mosquito-borne illness, licensed and trained DGHD staff will respond by treating the area accordingly.

Due to COVID19, DGHD is not currently collecting, sorting or testing mosquitoes. The Ohio Department of Health is not hiring the seasonal staff needed to identify and test mosquito pools. If staff and funding becomes available later this summer, we may resume with a private lab for testing. DGHD is still actively investigating nuisances and larviciding appropriate areas for mosquito control and we will adulticide (fog) in the event of a of human disease case.

If you have any other questions, please call the Delaware General Health District or go to <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/mosquito-borne-diseases>

Residents should always be aware that WNV may already be in their area and protect themselves appropriately.

For your home and property:

- Empty, change or replace water frequently from flowerpots, bird baths, buckets, barrels, pet dishes, tarps/covers or wheel barrows that can hold water.
- Dispose and discard trash, tin cans, plastic containers and old tires. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out.
- Check and clean clogged gutters so they drain properly.
- Aerate ornamental ponds.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, even those not in use.

For you and your family:

- Apply insect repellants on exposed skin registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Follow label instructions.
- Wear clothing treated with permethrin or other.
- Wear light-colored clothing, long-sleeve shirts or jackets and long pants to protect against mosquito bites.
- Consider avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito biting hours.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.