
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIRST POSITIVE WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITO SAMPLE
FOR THE SEASON TURNS UP IN PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP**

Nearby Area To Be Treated Tomorrow, June 1, 2012

A mosquito trap placed in the vicinity of the sewage treatment plant on Birmingham Road in Pemberton Township has turned up a positive sample of West Nile Virus, according to the Burlington County Mosquito Division. As a result, the division will treat to control adult mosquitoes tomorrow evening, weather permitting.

The positive sample is the first of the warm weather season, and the earliest detection of a positive West Nile mosquito in Burlington County history, officials said. Last year the first positive findings did not turn up until late July; a total 35 positive mosquitoes and 3 birds were reported over the summer.

The areas within approximately one-half mile of the sewerage plant will be treated tomorrow, Friday, June 1, 2012, starting at 7:30 PM. Pesticide will be applied in a mist form by a truck-mounted sprayer. Residents are encouraged to stay indoors while treatment occurs.

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PRESS RELEASE: West Nile – 5/31/12 – Add One

“This should serve as a reminder to all residents to take every precaution against mosquitoes.” said Burlington County Freeholder Mary Ann O’Brien, who oversees the Health Department.

“The keys to prevention are basic enough,” she added. “Use mosquito repellent, wear long sleeves and long pants, and try to limit outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active, during dawn and dusk.”

Residents should also clean or remove any items on their personal property that can collect rain or sprinkler water and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, such as clogged gutters, flowerpots, bottle caps or old car tires. They should also completely change water in birdbaths at least once a week and should repair window and door screens.

According to County Health Officer Robert Gogats, about one in 150 persons, or less than 1 percent of those infected with West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of the disease. The elderly and immune-compromised are at higher risk of more severe disease.

Symptoms of the more severe form of West Nile Virus include severe headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

However, most people exposed to West Nile Virus will not display any symptoms and some will have mild symptoms including fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands.

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PRESS RELEASE: West Nile – 7/27/11 – Add Two

Additional Information can be accessed on the county web site at
<http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/health>.

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