
Press Release

NEWS

Burlington County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RESIDENTS REMINDED IT'S MOSQUITO SEASON

Wet Spring And Sudden Warm-Up Create 'Perfect Storm' for Insects

The Burlington County Health Department is reminding residents that mosquitoes are beginning to appear and are expected to be in abundance this summer because of the unusually high amounts of precipitation during the winter and spring, coupled with the sudden warm-up in temperatures.

“Since the threat of West Nile Virus from mosquito bites starts in the spring, we want to remind people to apply repellent when outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk,” said Robert Gogats, Health Officer for Burlington County. “Remember to wear protective clothing when outdoors, keep screen doors and windows in good condition, clean gutters and pools, and remove any standing water that can provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.”

The Mosquito Control Division of the County Highway Department, which is responsible for mosquito surveillance and treatment, began its annual ground treatment and monitoring in the early spring. Aerial larvicide treatment has also commenced.

County Epidemiologist Jennifer Horner said residents also should be aware of the symptoms of West Nile Virus and to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms. Mild symptoms may include fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands.

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While most infections are mild, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems are most susceptible to more severe symptoms. More severe infections may include additional symptoms of stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, tremor, muscle weakness, convulsions and paralysis.

West Nile encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain caused by West Nile Virus, a disease transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. People should avoid touching a dead bird with bare hands.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a mosquito-borne viral disease. EEE virus (EEEV) occurs in the eastern half of the United States where it causes disease in humans, horses, and some bird species. Because of the high mortality rate, EEE is regarded as one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

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

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