

# WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN A POOL OF MOSQUITOES IN MIDDLEFIELD

## *Middlefield Residents are Encouraged to Follow Personal Protection Measures*

The State Mosquito Management Program confirmed that mosquitoes trapped in Middlefield have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). These are the first positive mosquitoes in town identified by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. The Plainville-Southington Health District encourages residents to take personal and homeowner protections to limit their exposure to mosquitoes, particularly in the hours around dusk and dawn.

“The mosquitoes that tested positive were located at the Durham Meadow test station in Middlefield which borders Durham”, according to Edward Bailey, the First Selectman of Middlefield. “Citizens of Durham and all our surrounding Towns should follow the personal protective measures recommended by our Health District to prevent West Nile Virus”.

To prevent WNV:

- Limit outdoor activities from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear clothing that minimizes bare skin.
- Use mosquito repellents on clothing.
- Follow the directions on labels for insecticides or repellents.
- Cover arms and legs of children playing near standing water.
- Cover playpens or carriages with mosquito netting.
- Remove objects that can hold standing water such as tin cans, tires, buckets, or bottles.
- Fill in holes, ditches, or tree trunks with sand or cement.
- Clean house gutters on a regular basis.
- Empty wading pools and bird baths every 4-7 days.
- Chlorinate swimming pools regularly.
- Eliminate collected water on boat and pool covers.
- Avoid over-watering of lawns.
- Fix holes in screens and attach properly to windows.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has 91 testing stations located throughout the state and identified mosquitoes positive for West Nile Virus in over 25 of them in 2019, with more expected in the coming weeks.

For more information please visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program at <http://www.ct.gov/mosquito>.