



**Westport Weston
Health District**

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Mark A.R. Cooper, Director of Health for the Westport Weston Health District announced today that the State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program has found that mosquitoes trapped in one of two trapping sites in Westport has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

Mr. Cooper said "that this does not come as surprise, with mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus in towns all around us it was only a matter of time. With the recent rains and hot temperatures, there are perfect conditions for mosquitoes to breed, and West Nile Virus to amplify within that population."

Mr. Cooper urged residents to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. He suggested wearing clothing that covers skin surfaces, using mosquito repellants, and eliminating any pool of water that mosquitoes can lay their eggs in around their home or business."

Monica Wheeler, Director of Community Health for the Westport Weston Health District said, "up to 80% of people do not exhibit symptoms upon exposure to the West Nile Virus, however, West Nile virus can cause a range of symptoms, from very mild to severe. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most at risk and should limit their exposure to mosquitoes, particularly in the hours around dusk and dawn."

The Health District recommends residents take the following precautions:

- Eliminate any object outside that can hold water and become a breeding place for mosquitoes.
- Clean house gutters that may be retaining water.
- Empty wading pools and bird baths every few days.
- Chlorinate swimming pools regularly.
- Make sure covers on grills, boats, pools, and other outside equipment do not collect water.
- Wear clothing that minimized exposed skin.
- Use mosquito repellents as directed by their labels.

For more information on West Nile Virus, visit the Health District's Web site at http://www.wwhd.org/west_nile_virus.htm and/or the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

The Westport Weston Health District is a regional health organization that provides full-time professional environmental health, disease prevention, and health education services to the residents of Westport and Weston.