

September 5, 2017

The Ohio Department of Health has notified the Ross County Health District that 12 mosquito samples from seven different locations across Ross County have tested positive for West Nile Virus. The mosquitoes were trapped as part of the Ross County Health District Mosquito Surveillance Program. The traps were located in the following areas of the county:

The Ross County Health District gated area at 150 E Second Street

The Annex near Yoctangee Park

North Fork Village

Frankfort

Clarksburg

Yellowbud

Kingston

A bite from a mosquito carrying West Nile Virus can cause fever, aches, joint pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and rash; however, most - 8 out of 10 people - will not develop any symptoms. Serious illness associated with West Nile Virus is rare, but can include central nervous system disorders including encephalitis and/or meningitis. There is no vaccine or antiviral treatment for West Nile Virus, so the most effective way to avoid infection is to prevent the mosquito bite. Use mosquito repellent – preferably EPA registered mosquito repellents - as directed on the package. Avoid outdoor activities during dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and tuck clothing in. Reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home by removing sources of standing water, such as flower pots, buckets and barrels. Turn wading pools on their side when not in use. Change water in birdbaths and pet dishes frequently. Concerned citizens can contact the Ross County Health District Environmental Health division to inspect and possibly treat areas of stagnant water that can not be drained.

See your healthcare provider if you experience any of the above-mentioned symptoms.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit these helpful websites:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

ODH: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/wnv>