August 20, 2019

The Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) received confirmation that North Haven and New Haven Mosquito Trapping Surveillance Sites, maintained by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) recently had mosquito pools test positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The mosquito surveillance sites are located at Quinnipiac River Park (North Haven) and Beaver Pond Park (New Haven). The CAES routinely monitors this mosquito trapping site between June and October. QVHD recommends the below information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

One of the most effective ways to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent. Choosing an EPA-registered repellent ensures the EPA has evaluated the product for effectiveness. Always follow the product label instructions and reapply insect repellent as directed. Visit the EPA website to learn more about which repellent is right for you and your family: https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents

Another effective way to avoid WNV is to control mosquitoes outside and inside your home. Be sure to follow these tips from the CDC:

- Remove standing water where mosquitoes could lay eggs
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, or trash containers. Mosquitoes lay eggs near water.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.
- For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Use larvicides to treat large containers of water that will not be used for drinking and cannot be covered or dumped out.
- Install or repair and use window and door screens. Do not leave doors propped open.
- Use air conditioning when possible.

For questions about WNV and humans, you can contact Quinnipiack Valley Health District, 203-248-4528, M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm.

Sources: