



Portage County Combined General Health District

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Media Release
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Portage County Health District Encourages Personal Protection as Mosquito Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus

PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO, July 31, 2025 – The Portage County Combined General Health District is encouraging residents to take proactive steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites following the detection of **multiple mosquito pools testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV)**.

A total of **10 mosquito pools** have tested positive for WNV in Portage County. **Seven of these were identified in Kent City**, while the remaining three were located in **Streetsboro, Suffield, and Hiram** and were confirmed through Portage County Health District's mosquito surveillance program.

Locations of WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools Identified by Portage County Health District:

- Streetsboro – Streetsboro City Park
- Suffield – Bolender Road
- Hiram – Fairview Cemetery

It is important to emphasize that **these are mosquito-only cases. No human cases of WNV have been reported in Portage County in 2025.**

These findings place Portage County among **22 Ohio counties** reporting WNV-positive mosquito pools so far this year. The counties include: Athens, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hocking, Knox, Lake, Licking, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Montgomery, Pickaway, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull. Additionally, Summit County has reported a mosquito pool testing positive for La Crosse virus.

To view up-to-date data on mosquito-borne illnesses and human case counts across Ohio, visit the Ohio Department of Health's Vector-Borne Disease Update page:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/news/vectorborne-disease-update>

The combination of warm weather and recent rainfall has created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. As we progress through the height of mosquito season, the risk of WNV transmission increases, making personal protection and environmental awareness more important than ever.

Tips to Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites:

- **Use insect repellent** – Apply EPA-registered repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, IR3535, para-menthane-diol, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow the label instructions.
- **Wear protective clothing** – Long sleeves and pants, especially light-colored and lightweight fabric, offer additional protection.
- **Avoid peak mosquito hours** – Mosquitoes are most active during early morning, late afternoon, and evening. Try to minimize outdoor activity during these times.
- **Eliminate standing water** – Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water. Regularly empty or clean bird baths, flowerpots, gutters, rain barrels, kiddie pools, buckets, and tarps.

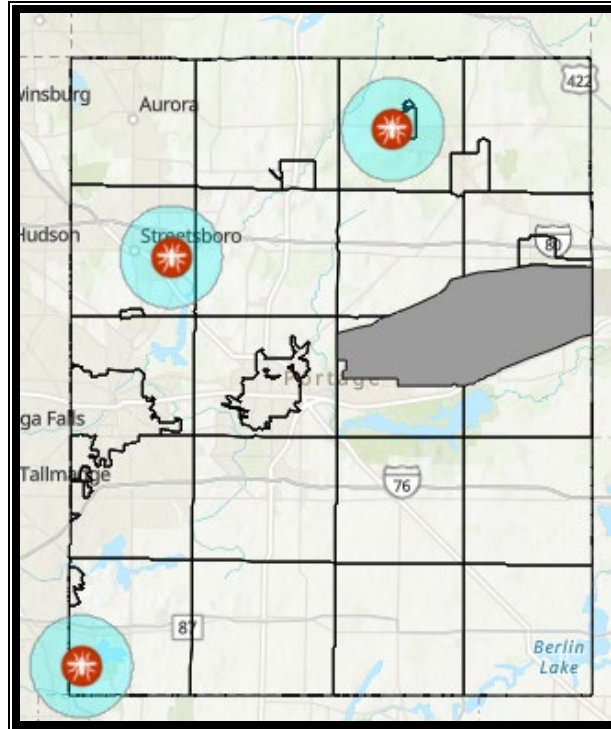
While there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for WNV, the virus can cause illness. Most infected individuals experience no symptoms, but some may develop fever, headaches, and body aches.

Track Local Activity on Our Dashboard

PCHD actively monitors mosquito activity through its **Mosquito Surveillance Program**, which includes trap placement and lab testing throughout the county. Residents can view real-time data through PCHD's online surveillance dashboard, available at:

<https://pccghd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/3373a3fbdbc54befb2c66da0722e2c86>

Portage County Health District Map Data as of July 31, 2025.



The red mosquito icons indicate locations where mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) and the blue circles represent the estimated maximum flight range of mosquitoes from each trap location.

For more information about West Nile virus or the mosquito control efforts in Portage County, visit:

<https://portagehealth.net/our-programs/environmental-public-health/mosquito-tick-and-rodent/>

About the Portage County Health District

The Portage County Health District is committed to promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the well-being of those who live, work, and learn in Portage County through education, prevention programs, and strong community partnerships. Learn more at www.portagehealth.net.

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