



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Sample Found in Cumberland County

Carlisle, PA – Cumberland County’s Vector Control Office was notified today by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of the first positive mosquito sample for West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2025. The sample was collected in South Middleton Township near Carlisle Airport.

“We’re actively monitoring mosquito activity in the area and surveying for potential breeding habitats,” said John Bitner, Cumberland County Chief of Vector Control. “When necessary, we’ll implement targeted mosquito control measures to help protect public health throughout the county.”

Residents can help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases by:

- Using mosquito repellents and wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Taking extra precautions around dusk, when female mosquitoes are most active.
- Securing window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Eliminating stagnant water around your property.
- Treating undrainable water sources with mosquito dunks or bits containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), a larvicide safe for use around people and pets. These products are available at hardware stores and other local retailers.

Mosquitoes spread WNV by feeding on infected birds and then biting other birds, animals, or humans. The county’s WNV program uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control mosquito populations while reducing risks to people and the environment. Vector Control will continue monitoring and treating mosquito breeding areas as needed.

The virus is not spread through person-to-person contact. One in five people infected with WNV may develop West Nile Fever, which causes mild symptoms such as fever, body aches, rash, and swollen lymph nodes. Most people recover in a few days with rest and fluids. Less than one percent of cases develop into the more serious West Nile Encephalitis. Severe symptoms may include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, tremors, or convulsions, and require immediate medical attention.

For more information, visit: cumberlandcountypa.gov/1103/Vector-Control.