

News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Reports Positive Mosquitoes for West Nile Virus in Westport and New Britain

Hartford – The State Mosquito Management Program today announced that mosquitoes trapped in two locations in Westport on July 21, 2011 and one location in New Britain on July 20, 2011 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These results represent the first positive mosquitoes identified in Westport and New Britain by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year.

“As expected, we continue to find mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus in more locations in lower Fairfield County and are now seeing an expansion into central Connecticut,” said Dr. Theodore G. Andreadis, Chief Medical Entomologist, CAES. “Over the next few weeks and into early fall, we expect to see further build-up of West Nile virus with increased risk for human infection throughout the state, especially in densely populated communities.”

In 2011, WNV-positive mosquitoes have been trapped in six municipalities: Bridgeport, Greenwich, New Britain, Orange, Stamford, and Westport. No Connecticut residents have been identified with illnesses related to WNV infections this year.

The state uses a network of 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities maintained by the CAES to monitor WNV activity. Mosquito traps are set Monday – Thursday nights and conducted at each site every ten days on a rotating basis. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) for testing according to species, collection site, and date. Each pool is tested for the presence of viruses of public health importance. Positive findings are reported to local health departments, in press releases, and on the CAES web site at www.ct.gov/caes.

For information on West Nile virus and what you can do to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

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