



Lake County General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE
July 22, 2010

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LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

MAKE THOSE MOSQUITOES SCAT AND FIGHT THE BITE!

Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) adult mosquito control (spraying) operations began on June 15, 2010. Since then, 36 strategic routes have been sprayed on nine different evenings to control the adult mosquito population. Adult female mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near standing water. Due to a lack of rain, spraying was recently stopped; but is scheduled to start again July 26, 2010. LCGHD's West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance program has also trapped 6,294 mosquitoes since June 1, 2010. 4,633 mosquitoes have been tested and found negative for WNV. To date this year, LCGHD staff has received 47 calls regarding Dead Bird sightings, which can be a sign of WNV in the area.

Mosquitoes can carry a variety of diseases, including West Nile Virus and LaCrosse (LAC) encephalitis, which recently killed a Summit County, Ohio resident. Each year, there are 80-100 cases of LAC encephalitis reported in the United States, while there are 720-1000 cases of WNV reported in the United States. Those at greatest risk for complications with LAC encephalitis in the United States are those younger than 16 years old and those at greatest risk for complications with WNV are those older than 50 years old. While Lake County has had 11 LAC cases since 1964 and 10 WNV cases since 2002, Ohio has had 127 LAC cases since 2002 and 51 WNV cases in the same time period. The last Lake County LAC Encephalitis cases were in Kirtland (1998), and Wickliffe (1997).

No matter where you live, mosquito protection is a very important part of summer fun. The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) suggests the following top 10 ways to fight the bite:

1. Dress yourself and your children in light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Wear long sleeves and long pants if possible.
2. Use United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-approved insect repellents, such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon-eucalyptus. DEET can be applied to infants older than 2 months of age, but use a 10% formulation. Apply the repellent first to your hands, and then spread on children's exposed skin, making sure to keep the repellent away from eyes, mouth, nose, etc. Do not let children apply their own repellent.
3. Strategically-placed floor fans providing a breeze across the patio or deck will help keep mosquitoes away. Mosquitoes are weak fliers, and will not be able to navigate properly against or within the airstream. The fans will also scatter the scents mosquitoes use to find their victims.
4. Make sure door and window screens fit tightly and holes are repaired.
5. If possible, avoid outdoor activities after dusk and before dawn.

6. Light your deck or patio, with yellow “Bug Lights.” These lights are not repellent, but do not attract mosquitoes like other lights do.
7. Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.
8. Empty plastic wading pools and birdbaths at least once a week.
9. Remove any sources of standing water, such as old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums and bottles – on your property.
10. Keep drains, ditches and culverts free of weeds and trash, so water will drain properly.

For more information on how to protect yourself from mosquitoes, visit http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/vbdp/vb_mosq.aspx or http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/list_mosquitoborne.htm.

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