



MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** Warning Update

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alyse Nichols, Public Information Officer

anichols@stclaircounty.org

(810) 987-5300 x1510

West Nile Virus Detected in St. Clair County Mosquitoes

The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) conducts seasonal surveillance for mosquito-borne diseases. Recently, evidence of West Nile Virus (WNV) was detected by the SCCHD Environmental Health Division during their routine sampling activities. The Division tests pools of mosquitoes that are collected throughout the county for disease. At this time, there are no reported human cases.

WNV is transmitted to people through bites from infected mosquitoes. About 1 in 5 individuals infected develop symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, and fatigue. In rare cases, WNV can lead to severe neurological complications and death, especially among older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems.

“It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to cause disease,” said Alicia Hawkins, Environmental Health Sanitarian at the St. Clair County Health Department. “There is no vaccine or cure for WNV, so the best way to prevent mosquito-borne disease is to prevent mosquito bites.”

Recommended prevention measures:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-approved products to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer’s directions for use.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitos outside.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires and other water-holding containers where mosquitos can lay eggs.

For more information, visit www.scchealth.co or contact the SCCHD Environmental Health Division at (810) 987-5306. Stay updated by following us on social media @scchdmi.

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