

STRATHAM, NH – The State Lab in Concord recently confirmed that a batch of mosquitoes collected in Stratham has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Mosquitoes have tested positive for WNV this year in five New Hampshire municipalities including Stratham, Portsmouth, East Kingston, Salem and Manchester.

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. For humans, the risk of contracting the infection is low and in the overwhelming majority of cases, there are no symptoms or just mild, flu-like symptoms. If illness does occur, it happens within 4 to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. If someone is experiencing flu-like symptoms including fever and headache, they should contact their local medical provider.

Continue taking steps to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes and remove standing water on your property. Whenever it rains, it's imperative to eliminate mosquito breeding areas to help reduce the risk. Dump water out of containers such as wheel barrows, buckets, trash barrels, tarps, boats, canoes, bird baths and any other manmade container. Check screens on windows and doors for holes whereby mosquitoes can enter your home. Protect yourself and your family with a few simple steps. Avoid being outside at dawn and dusk when possible. Use repellents and cover up by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Here's a link to EPA registered repellents: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>

Mosquito trapping and disease testing will continue until mid-October. Treatment of mosquito larvae in the wetlands is ongoing. The threat of mosquitoes carrying disease won't diminish until a hard freeze which may not occur until sometime in November.

More information about mosquitoes and West Nile Virus is available at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/index.htm> or <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile>