

## West Nile virus

The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division submits samples of mosquitoes, known as pools, to the New Jersey Department of Health's laboratory for testing for West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases. A positive result in bird-biting mosquitoes (*Culex* species) indicates that West Nile virus is amplifying between birds and mosquitoes and is typical to see in late June.

When notified of a positive mosquito pool, the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division increases its efforts in the local area to treat standing water and kill mosquito larvae. In addition, more intense, localized surveillance is conducted to trap a variety of mosquito species to monitor both the number of adult mosquitoes as well as detect West Nile virus in species that may bite people or animals. Species that bite both birds and mammals are referred to as "bridge vectors." If a pool of bridge vector mosquitoes tests positive for West Nile virus or other disease, the risk of transmission to humans is higher. Such a result, combined with the number of adult mosquitoes, types of mosquitoes and weather conditions, may trigger localized adult mosquito control operations. If conducted, these operations will be posted in advance on this website.

*Culex* mosquitoes thrive in permanent sources of water like unmaintained pools, rain barrels and stagnant ditches as well as smaller containers of water.

Monmouth County residents can help reduce the production of *Culex* mosquitoes and the amplification of West Nile virus by diligently emptying containers of water. (See checklist for more information.) Be sure to check for standing water after every rain!

7 Days + water = Mosquitoes

Residents may also report an area of standing water or unmaintained pool to the Commission by calling 732-542-3630 or submitting an on-line service request.

Thank you for doing your part for mosquito control!