



*Town of Wallingford, Connecticut*  
*Health Department*

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WHD

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Wallingford, CT

*Wallingford, CT — August 17, 2023* — The Wallingford Health Department has received notification from the CT Department of Public Health confirming that mosquitoes trapped during the week of August 14, 2023, have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. These mosquitoes were trapped at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's (CAES) mosquito trapping site located on South Elm Street.

CAES has been actively monitoring mosquito traps in Wallingford since June. The identified mosquito species, *Culex restuans*, is known to primarily feed on birds but can also bite humans.

As per statewide surveillance data, West Nile Virus (WNV) activity tends to peak from late August through September. Given this information, the Wallingford Health Department strongly advises all residents to take precautionary measures, especially individuals older than 50 years of age, who are at a higher risk of severe complications.

To minimize the risk of mosquito bites and potential infection, the following precautions are recommended:

1. **Use insect repellent** containing DEET and limit outdoor activities during dawn and dusk.
2. Ensure that **window and door screens are in good condition**.
3. **Eliminate standing water** sources, including items like "kiddie pools."
4. Regularly **clean and refill birdbaths** on a weekly basis.
5. Keep **roof gutters clean and unclogged** to prevent water accumulation.
6. Utilize landscaping techniques to **prevent water from pooling** on your property.
7. **Wear long-sleeved clothing and long pants** while spending time outdoors.

While many individuals infected with West Nile Virus may remain asymptomatic or experience mild illness, symptoms can manifest within 5 to 15 days following a mosquito bite. However, it's important to note that serious illnesses can arise, resulting in symptoms like muscle weakness, high fever, headaches, or neurological issues. Should any severe symptoms occur, individuals are advised to seek immediate medical attention from their primary care provider.

For additional information and inquiries, residents are encouraged to contact the Wallingford Health Department at (203) 294-2065.