

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA CONTACT:

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## West Nile Virus Testing Results

Erie, PA — The Erie County Department of Health confirms that a mosquito group collected in the City of Erie on Aug. 22, 2024 has tested positive for West Nile virus.

Additionally, a bird collected in Millcreek Township on Aug. 5, 2024 tested positive for West Nile virus.

At this time, no human cases have been reported in Erie County. Additional monitoring will be done in the area where these samples were collected. Appropriate control work will be conducted, depending on the number and types of mosquitoes that are found.

Certain species of mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus. If infected, most people do not develop symptoms while some will have fever, headache and fatigue. These viruses can cause severe disease, including encephalitis (swelling of the brain). If you think you or a family member might be infected, talk with your healthcare provider.

Reduce the risk of infection by preventing mosquito bites:

- Insect repellants with DEET can be applied (sparingly) to exposed skin. Spray thin clothing with repellent since mosquitoes can bite through it. Be sure to follow all directions on product labels.
- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening when mosquitoes are most active. If you must go outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Use the proper type of lighting outside. Incandescent lights attract mosquitoes, while florescent lights neither attract nor repel mosquitoes.
- Products such as “mosquito dunks” can be obtained from garden centers.
- Make sure window and door screens are “bug tight.”
- Mosquitoes are repelled by high winds, so electric fans may provide some relief at outdoor events.
- Reduce the number of mosquitoes around homes and neighborhoods by getting rid of standing water, which is where mosquitoes lay their eggs.

More information is available at [dep.pa.gov](http://dep.pa.gov).

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