

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN ORANGE TOWNSHIP; FOGGING PLANNED

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

DELAWARE, Oh., August 14, 2008 – The Delaware General Health District will start mosquito fogging in Orange Township on Monday evening, August 18, weather permitting.

Mosquitoes caught in a trap in a residential area of central Orange Township tested positive for West Nile virus. The fogging is planned to kill adult mosquitoes because of the possibility that they could transmit the disease to people. The fogging will take place within one mile of the trap location near the East Orange Road Norfolk & Western Railroad crossing.

Fogging takes place between sunset and midnight along public roads and streets. Rainy or windy weather will cause fogging to be postponed. Anyone who does not want mosquito fogging adjacent to their property can phone the Health District at 740-368-1700 and ask to be placed on the “no-fog list.”

The Ohio Department of Health laboratory notified the Delaware General Health District Thursday about the virus being detected in a pool of mosquitoes collected in Orange Township on the night of July 22. The mosquitoes were caught in one of several traps set nightly by Health District employees at various sites around Delaware County.

West Nile virus has appeared in Delaware County in mosquitoes and/or birds collected by the Delaware General Health District in each of the last several years, and a human case of La Crosse Encephalitis, also spread by mosquitoes, last occurred here in 2005.

Mosquito prevention is the best precaution against these diseases. Empty standing water out of flower pots, bird baths, and other outdoor containers regularly, and keep gutters and other

potential mosquito breeding places free of stagnant water. Large areas of standing water can be treated with larvicide, sold commercially as “Mosquito Dunks.”

Residents also should protect themselves against mosquito bites, particularly early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active. If you must go outdoors, protect yourself by wearing light-colored long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and by wearing mosquito repellent containing DEET or Picaridin. Apply repellent according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Any plans for additional mosquito fogging will be announced by the Health District in local news media, on the Health District Information Line, 740-203-2015, and online at www.delawarehealth.org. Click on “Environmental Health” and then “Residential Services.”