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TMHD REMINDS RESIDENTS TO FOLLOW PERSONAL PROTECTION MEASURES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM WEST NILE VIRUS
FIVE HUMAN CASES AND 19 POOLS OF POSITIVE MOSQUITOES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

The Trumbull Monroe Health District (TMHD) advises residents to continue to take personal and homeowner precautions to limit their exposure to mosquitoes, particularly at dawn and dusk when the mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus (WNV) are most active. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed five human cases of WNV this season in Bridgeport, Greenwich, New Haven, Stamford, and Trumbull. Two additional Connecticut residents were infected while travelling out of state.

“This is the time of year when many residents are outside, involved in evening sport programs, when mosquitoes are active,” stated Patrice Sulik, TMHD Director of Health. “Residents should dress appropriately when outdoors to prevent the risk of infection. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and insect repellent that is properly applied.”

So far this season, positive mosquitoes have been identified in 19 towns – Bethel, Bridgeport, Darien, Fairfield, Greenwich, Manchester, Meriden, Milford, Newtown, Norwalk, New Britain, New Haven, Orange, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, West Haven, Westport and Wethersfield.

To monitor WNV, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) maintains a network of 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities throughout the state from June through

October. Mosquito traps are set every ten days at each site on a rotating basis. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) according to species, collection site, and date. Each pool is cultured for the presence of viruses of public health importance including West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses. CAES has reported that the majority of mosquitoes testing positive for WNV have been bird biting mosquitoes (90%); the other 10% are human biting mosquitoes.

“There has been a lot of mosquito activity reported along the I-95 corridor,” stated Sulik. “There will continue to be mosquito activity over the next few weeks, until the temperature decreases.”

TMHD have been working closely with First Selectmen, Timothy Herbst and Steve Vavrek, as well as the Public Works and Parks Directors of the two towns. TMHD has provided both towns with a supply of a bacterial larvicide called BTI, which is used for mosquito larval control in a broad range of fresh and salt marsh habitats. It uses a naturally-occurring bacteria and provides thirty days of protection. The non-toxic larvicide will be used on town property where mosquito activity tends to be high.

BTI is also available for residential purposes. The Trumbull Monroe Health District has briquettes available and can be purchased at the TMHD offices, 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 116, in Trumbull, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$1.00 per briquette. BTI can also be purchased at local hardware stores.

West Nile virus can cause a range of symptoms, from very mild to severe. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most at risk. Residents are urged to avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.

For more information on WNV visit TMHD website at www.tmhd.org or contact the TMHD at 203-452-5195.

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The mission of the Trumbull Monroe Health District is to protect the health of residents, and to prevent disease. For more information on the Trumbull Monroe Health District call 203-452-5195, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.