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State Reports Fairfield's First West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes of the Season

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program reports that mosquitoes collected from Fairfield's South Pine Creek Area trapping site have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). While this is the first of the season for Fairfield, 45 other Connecticut communities have already had WNV positive mosquitoes identified and statewide this is the 168th WNV positive pool of mosquitoes collected by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Fairfield has had one human case of WNV already this season, it's seventh since 2000.

"We know that West Nile Virus is present in our community so we want to encourage residents to reduce their risk for contracting it and other mosquito-borne diseases by taking all the appropriate precautions," said Sands Cleary, Director of Health for the Town of Fairfield. Reducing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases is achieved through taking personal preventive measures and eliminating breeding areas. Some steps to take are:

- Don't go outside when mosquitoes are active (between dusk and dawn).
- Use mosquito repellent (Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#)).
- Wear protective clothing such as hats, long sleeve shirt and pants.
- Keep mosquitoes outside by ensuring all screens are in good repair.
- Any item or area that has standing water for 7 days after a rain event can be a mosquito breeding area. To eliminate breeding areas empty, drain, remove, cover or turn upside down any container that can hold water including buckets, barrels, flower pots, tin cans, bottles, jars, paint cans, toys, etc. Change water in birdbaths at least once a week.
- Report any standing water on private property, such as abandoned pools, to the Fairfield Health Department at 203-256-3020.

Taking the above steps can greatly reduce risk of mosquito-borne diseases. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the CAES will continue to monitor the status of WNV through surveillance, trapping and testing.

For more information on reducing your risk of getting bitten, please see the Town of Fairfield Health Department Mosquito Webpage at <https://fairfieldct.org/Mosquitoes> or our video at <https://youtu.be/eoaiGGEox0U>. For more information visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program web-site at www.ct.gov/mosquito or the CAES Web-site at www.ct.gov/caes.

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