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## West Nile Virus found in Greene County

By Bob Niedbala, Staff writer [bniedbala@observer-reporter.com](mailto:bniedbala@observer-reporter.com)

WAYNESBURG - Spraying will be conducted in parts of Morgan and Franklin townships today to kill mosquitoes that could carry the West Nile virus.

The spraying was prompted by the collection earlier this month of a mosquito in Morgan Township that tested positive for the disease. The mosquito was collected August 5 from a trap at the Reesman's Trailer Park sewage treatment plant, said Dustin Teegarden, the county's West Nile coordinator. The positive test result was reported to the county Wednesday.

The spraying, using a thermal fog mosquito adulticide, will be conducted in the vicinity of the mobile home park and its treatment plant as well as in the area of the Waynesburg sewage treatment plant in Franklin Township.

A large number of mosquitoes have been found at the Waynesburg plant, though none has tested positive for West Nile, Teegarden said.

The spraying will be conducted by the state Department of Environmental Protection's West Nile Virus Program in cooperation with the county's West Nile Virus program.

It will be completed today between 7 and 10 p.m. County and DEP officials will be at the Jefferson-Morgan High School parking lot in Morgan Township at 6 p.m. prior to spraying to answer any questions from residents. Officials will be at the Franklin Township Municipal Building at 8 p.m.

Teegarden urged residents in the areas being sprayed to stay indoors, close their windows and turn off their air conditioners as long as the thermal fog remains visible. Residents in the areas also should bring their pets inside and cover their garden plants, or make sure to wash garden vegetables before eating them, he said.

The chemical being used for the treatment, Permanone 30-30, is not harmful to humans, livestock, birds or other wildlife based on the concentrations being used in the application. The application will be completed by a hand-held thermal fogger which produces a thick, dense smoke similar to a building on fire. Police and fire departments in the communities being treated will be notified.

Residents in the areas to be sprayed also will be notified by county employees who began going door to door Wednesday afternoon, Teegarden said.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause encephalitis. Mosquitoes acquire the virus from birds and pass it on to other birds, animals and people. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito never develop symptoms, and only one in 150 with symptoms develop the more serious West Nile encephalitis, DEP said.

The last presence of the disease in Greene County was in 2004 when it was found in a dead bird submitted for testing.

To combat the spread of the disease, residents are urged to eradicate mosquito breeding grounds around their homes by disposing of containers that hold stagnant water, cleaning roof gutters and chlorinating unused pools. People also should take precautions to avoid getting bitten by mosquitos by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, particularly when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.

DEP also suggests people use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

For information on the spraying, call Ed Farrell, southwestern West Nile coordinator, at 412-442-4301 or Teegarden at 724-852-5278. Information on West Nile also is available on the state's West Nile Web page at [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us).