

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Russel Melmed  
Epidemiologist  
860-448-4882 ext.311  
[rmelmed@llhd.org](mailto:rmelmed@llhd.org)

## **Mosquitoes in Waterford Test Positive for West Nile Virus**

Ledge Light Health District announced today that mosquitoes trapped in Waterford on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Although positive WNV mosquitoes are normally expected during the summer months, their presence serves as a reminder for residents to take standard precautions to avoid coming in contact with mosquitoes.

### **Precautions to avoid mosquito bites include:**

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- While outdoors, wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions. The most effective repellents contain DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus is also effective for brief periods of exposure.
- When using DEET, use the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately 2 hours and 20% for 4 hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors. Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than 2 months.

### **Measures to reduce mosquitoes around the home include:**

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, and tire swings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and cover pools when not in use.
- Use landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

**Additional resources for information on West Nile virus and mosquito management can be found at**  
<http://www.ct.gov/mosquito/site/default.asp>

Ledge Light Health District has a supply of larvicidal briquettes that can be used to treat standing water on private property. This larvacide prevents mosquitoes from developing into adults. Residents of municipalities served by Ledge Light Health District may request treatment of standing water on their property by calling Tyler Do Taylor at 860-448-4882, extension 1346. A District Sanitarian will visit your property and apply the larvacide to the area of standing water. The treatment will last approximately 30 days.

The treatment of stagnant water with larvacide, coupled with the additional protective measures listed above, will significantly reduce the potential for West Nile Virus transmission.

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Ledge Light Health District – LLHD – serves as the local health department for East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London, Waterford, Old Lyme, Lyme, Stonington and North Stonington, Connecticut. As a health district, formed under [Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241](#), LLHD is a special unit of government, allowing member municipalities to provide comprehensive public health services to residents in a more efficient manner by consolidating the services within one organization.

The Director of Health and staff of LLHD work to promote health and wellness among the 151,000 residents we serve. By enforcing the Connecticut Public Health Code, conducting health education programs, monitoring disease outbreaks and nurturing our environment, LLHD is focused on *promoting healthy communities*.

LLHD’s mission statement – **to prevent disease, illness and injury; to protect and nurture our environment; and to promote improved health and prosperity for all residents** – describes in more detail our slogan of “promoting healthy communities.”