

We are in the heat of summer and West Nile Virus is increasing in Beaver County. As of July, Beaver County has recorded 10 West Nile Virus positive mosquito samples. Viral activity is increasing across the county, and we want to remind everyone to take precautions with personal protection and reducing mosquito habitat on personal property.

Personal protection such as,

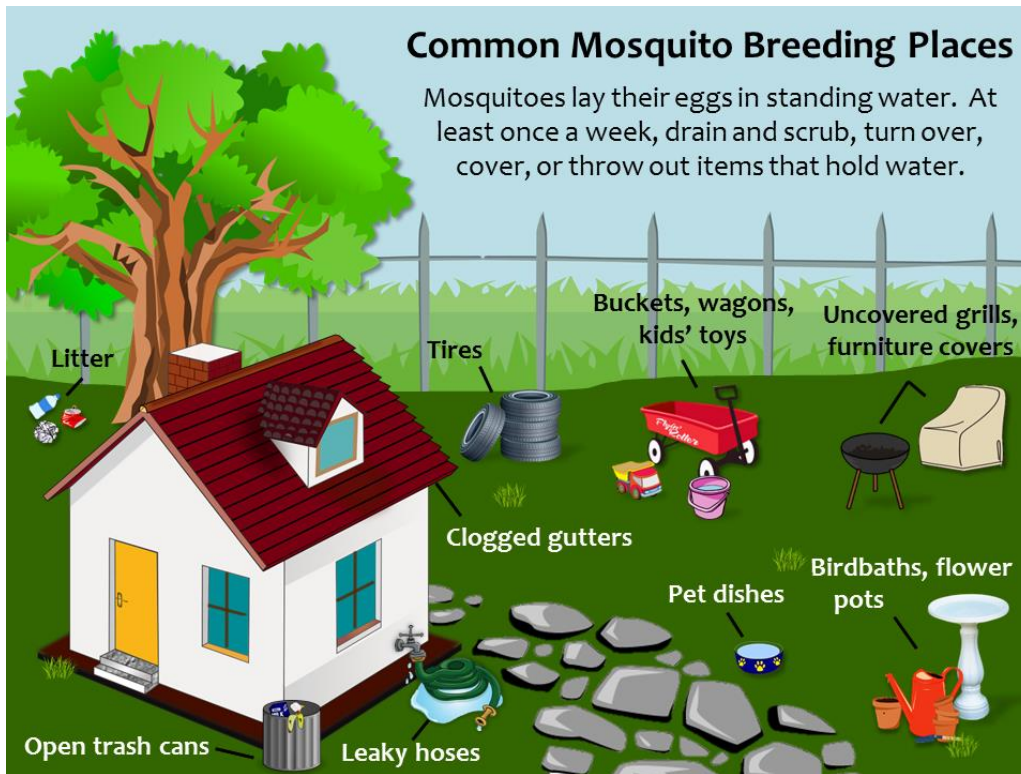
- ✓ Wearing EPA approved insect repellent to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.
- ✓ Wearing light-colored loose-fitting clothing, including long sleeved shirts and long pants while enjoying the outdoors.
- ✓ Being extra aware during peak mosquito activity times (dusk and dawn).

By removing mosquito habitat around personal property, it reduces breeding areas and mosquito populations that can carry West Nile Virus.

- ✓ Remove any standing (stagnant) water that can collect in items such as buckets, tarps, old tires, open trash cans.
- ✓ Rinse out items every few days that hold water such as birdbaths, pet dishes, unused kiddie pools.
- ✓ Check areas such as gutters and corrugated downspouts and remove any debris and standing water.

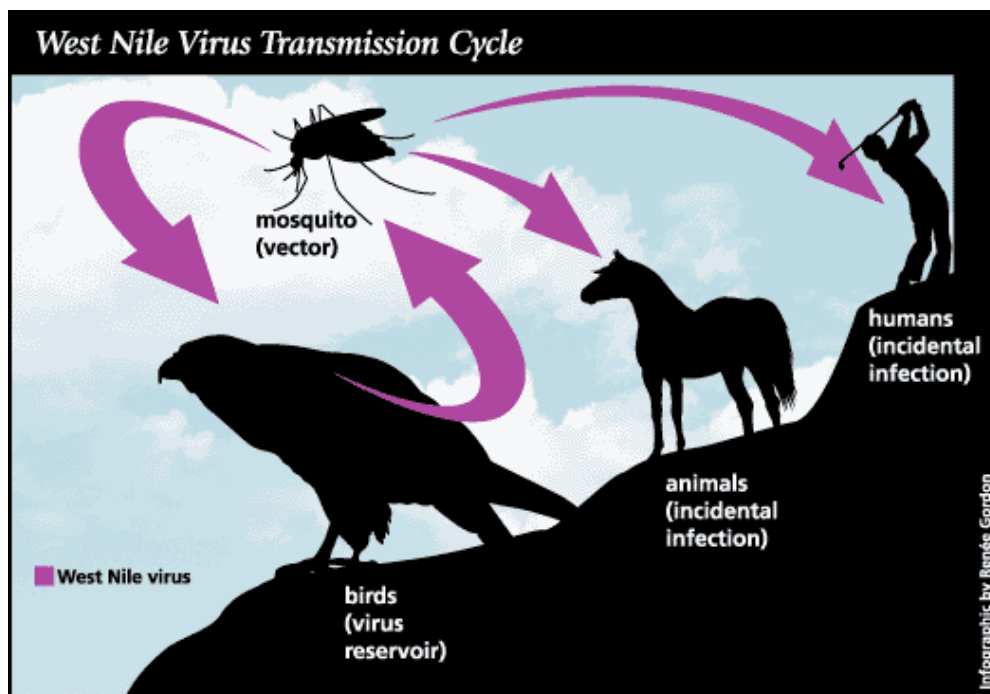
Other helpful ways to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes are

- ✓ Keeping ornamental ponds aerated and water circulating so mosquitoes can't lay eggs on the water.
- ✓ Keeping swimming pools treated.
- ✓ Keeping window and door screens free of rips and tears so mosquitoes cannot enter homes.
- ✓ Using insect (mosquito) sprays around property to reduce mosquito populations. Always follow the instructions on the label.
- ✓ Using larvicides to treat stagnant standing water areas that cannot be dumped out or removed. Always follow the instructions on the label.



West Nile Virus is transmitted from infected birds to mosquitoes when a female mosquito bites the infected bird. It is then transmitted to humans when the infected mosquito bites the human and takes a bloodmeal. Female mosquitoes must take a bloodmeal to lay their eggs.

Most people show no symptoms, but 1 in 5 people infected can develop symptoms. It resembles flu like symptoms. The symptoms of West Nile Virus can include fever, aches, headache, and fatigue. Most people will recover in a few days. A small percentage, 1 in 150 people, can develop more serious conditions that can lead to encephalitis and in rare cases even death. There is no treatment or vaccine for humans. If you think you might have West Nile Virus, talk with your health care provider.



July surveillance reported increased mosquito populations in Beaver County.

75 gravid traps were set in July and over 10,500 mosquitoes were collected.

We set 13 BG Sentinel traps to determine mosquito populations and collected approximately 900 mosquitoes. We also collected over 200 larvae/pupae in 66 sampling events.

We conducted 9 adult control events. 1 truck mounted ULV event and 8 backpack barrier events.

68 larval control events were conducted to reduce larval mosquito populations before they became adult mosquitoes.

We investigated 2 mosquito calls of concern in July.

Tick surveillance in July consisted of 11 tick drags throughout the county with 183 larvae collected and 19 nymphal ticks. 3 positives were identified in samples that included *Borellia burgdorferi* (pathogen for Lyme Disease) and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Anaplasmosis).

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy the great outdoors, just remember to take precautions to stay safe and mosquito free! For more information on the proper insect repellents for you and your family please visit [www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you](http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you) and for more information on West Nile Virus, mosquitoes, and ticks, visit our website [www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org](http://www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org)



## **Beaver County Conservation District**

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