



KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release
For Immediate Release
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WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN CITY OF KENT MOSQUITOES

Kent, Ohio – The Kent City Health Department (KCHD) announces the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL) has confirmed several mosquito pools positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). A “pool” is a collection of 50 mosquitoes from a location monitored for mosquito breeding. To date, no human cases of WNV have been reported in Kent or Portage County. The goal of the mosquito control program is to prevent the spread of mosquito transmitted diseases.

ODHL tests confirmed the positive pool was collected on July 9, 2025 in the following areas:

1. Al Lease Park and walking path area
2. Fishcreek Park off McKinney Boulevard
3. Dale Drive behind the United Methodist Church/Ryan’s Place apartments
4. Overbrook
5. Behind Indian Valley apartments

In response, KCHD will increase monitoring and treatment/breeding control efforts in these areas. Larvaciding in the northwest quadrant of the city was planned and carried out on 7/18/25. A combination of barrier sprays and fogging will be implemented in these specific areas this week as weather permits. Further test results of additional trappings are not yet available from ODHL.

Residents are reminded that mosquitoes breed in standing water. Please follow the tips listed below to help reduce the mosquito population:

- Install or repair window and door screens so mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- Keep gutters clean and free of standing water.
- Empty water at least twice a week from flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- Remove discarded tires and other items that could collect water.
- Be sure to check containers or trash in places that may be hard to see and can potentially hold water, such as under bushes or under your deck.

Tips to avoid mosquito bites include:

- Use an insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin oil, lemon eucalyptus, or other EPA-approved active ingredients on skin and/or clothing according to label directions.
- Avoid being outside at dawn and dusk. If you cannot avoid those times, use an EPA approved insect repellent according to the label directions.
- Avoid shaded and wooded areas where mosquitoes may be present.

- Cover your skin when outdoors. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes.

If you have any further concerns, please call the health department at 330-678-8109 or visit <https://www.kentohio.gov/living-here/mosquito-control/> more information about the mosquito control program.