



EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
131 Coventry Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06112
(860) 757-4700
www.hartford.gov



CARLOS RIVERA
Director

REMINDER

CITY URGES CAUTIONARY STEPS TO AVOID WEST NILE VIRUS

Hartford Mosquitoes Test Positive

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

(September 16, 2010) – Carlos Rivera, Director of the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services issued a public health alert today to help keep residents safe from West Nile Virus (WNV). Although no human cases of WNV have been reported in the city to date, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that mosquitoes trapped in Hartford have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

“Although cooler weather is here, it is important to know that, until the first frost of the year, we are still in the high risk season for West Nile Virus. An infected mosquito’s bite is the main mode of transmission; protections against mosquitoes, as well as cutting the reproductive cycle of the insect are critical steps,” stated Carlos Rivera, Director.

We are recommending that residents take the following personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- 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.
- When using DEET (the most widely used insect repellent) on children, use a product containing less than 10% DEET and wash treated skin after returning indoors.

You can also reduce mosquitoes around your home with the following measures:

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, 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.
- Use landscaping techniques to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

For more information about protecting your family from WNV, visit:

CT Department of Public Health Website at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us>
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Website at <http://www.caes.state.ct.us>
CT Department of Environmental Protection Website at <http://dep.state.ct.us>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website at <http://www.cdc.gov>