

Contact: Jean Mueller
Taney County Health Department
320 Rinehart Road
Phone: (417) 334-4544 ext. 224
Cell: (417) 230-0725
Email: muelf@lpha.mopublic.org

Taney County Health Department



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Taney County Health Department reports that mosquitoes, in parts of the county, have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

“The chances of becoming ill from West Nile virus are low,” said Robert Niezgoda, health department epidemiologist. “Less than 1% of people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will develop illness and very few of those will develop serious illness.”

Kim Foster, health department environmental specialist, said, “The season is in full swing for mosquitoes, and this is the time of year to wear repellent and eliminate mosquito breeding areas around your home and community.” She reminds residents to empty standing or stagnant water from cans, bottles, old tires, wading pools, flowerpots, and other containers. You can also clean out clogged gutters, drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers and mow high grass and weeds to eliminate mosquito-breeding habitats. In addition, make sure that all windows have proper screens to help keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Mosquitoes’ favorite time to feed is between dusk and dawn. Those outside during this time should protect themselves by wearing long sleeves and using insect repellent containing DEET.

Niezgoda said, “There have been no reported human cases of West Nile Virus in Taney County.”

For more information you may visit the Taney County Health Department website at www.taneycohealth.org or call (417) 334-4544 or (417) 546-4725.

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