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From: **Pagano, Chelsea** <CPagano@westchestercountyny.gov>

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Subject: MOSQUITOES WITH WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN WESTCHESTER

To: Pagano, Chelsea <CPagano@westchestercountyny.gov>



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

News Release

Date: August 6, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOSQUITOES WITH WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN WESTCHESTER

County Health Department Reminds Residents to Remove Standing Water and Use Repellents

(White Plains, NY) – The Westchester County Health Department announced that this season's first batches of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus in Westchester were found in Rye. These are the first positives out of 61 batches of mosquitos collected by the County Health Department from 30 traps throughout Westchester. The mosquitoes were tested for West Nile Virus by the New York State Department of Health.

Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "This is a seasonal reminder that mosquitos thrive in hot water, especially at sunrise and sunset, so be sure to protect yourself and your family by using repellents, especially when many mosquitoes are active. Apply sunscreen first, and repellent second, and wash them both off before bed."

Watch this [video](#) for tips on how to reduce the mosquito population near you and to learn more about the Health Department's role in mosquito monitoring. More information also can be found on the [West Nile Virus page](#). Throughout the season, the Department also traps and tests mosquitoes to track the presence of mosquito-borne viruses.

Symptoms of West Nile include fever, headache, body aches and joint pain, but can be more serious for people 60 and older, and those with underlying medical conditions.

Tips to Avoid West Nile:

- Avoid the outdoors at dusk, when mosquitoes are active and feeding. Use insect repellents and follow the label instructions.
- Adults can use insect repellents with up to 30 percent DEET on infants over two months of age by applying the product to their own hands and then rubbing it onto their children, avoiding their children's hands, eyes and mouth.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks when outdoors, especially in areas where mosquitoes are active and feeding.
- Check around your property for anything that can hold water, and pour it out or put it away. Mosquitos do not travel far from a water source.
- Check and remove standing water from children's toys and play houses left outside.
- Remove discarded tires.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets and wheelbarrows when not in use.

- Change the water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Keep storm drains and gutters clear of leaves and debris.
- Continue to chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor spas and hot tubs until properly winterized or drained for the season. Also, if not chlorinated, drain any water that collects on their covers.

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About Westchester County Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just over 1 million. Originally home to Native Americans of the Lenape tribe, it is now a rich mix of diverse cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages, and picturesque towns, as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of six cities, 19 towns, and 20 villages. The County is known for its top-notch public schools and high quality of life. It is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world-changing nonprofits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins, who took office in January 2025 as the tenth County Executive. Focusing on innovation, Jenkins is leveraging technology and fostering business growth to position Westchester as a dynamic and inclusive destination where everyone can thrive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestercountyny.gov

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