



# MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katharine Killen  
865-215-5534 office  
865-755-1121 cell

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## Two areas added to mosquito spray schedule

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) has received a positive lab report of West Nile virus (WNV) in a bird and human in two separate areas of Knox County. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocol, KCHD will spray for mosquitoes in these areas on **Monday, Oct. 9 between 8:45 p.m. and 2 a.m.**, weather permitting, to reduce the Culex mosquito population and the risk of WNV spreading to humans. Signs will be posted in the affected neighborhoods to alert residents, who are asked to stay inside during spraying and keep pets inside or in the backyard. Spray area details and maps are included below.

This is Knox County's first confirmed human case of 2017; the infected person is recovering. Knox County's last confirmed WNV case was in 2013. Tennessee averaged approximately 20.4 human cases each year from 2012 to 2016. Like people, crows and jays contract WNV from infected mosquitoes. WNV is not transmitted from animal to person through casual contact or from person to person. There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat WNV. Most people infected with WNV do not have symptoms, but about 1 in 5 infected develop a fever and other symptoms including headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Most people with these symptoms recover completely. Less than 1 percent of those infected develop a serious, potentially fatal neurologic illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis, according to the CDC.

Preventing mosquito bites and reducing mosquito habitats is the best way to reduce your risk of WNV. Officials recommend the following:

- Apply repellants to skin often; these can include lotions, liquids or sprays. The CDC recommends the use of repellants containing DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane 3, 8-diol, and IR3535. The duration of protection varies by repellant. Read labels on products to determine when reapplications are necessary for optimal protection.
- Wear socks and long, loose and light-colored shirts and pants.
- Treat clothing with permethrin or purchase pretreated permethrin clothing.
- Dispose of, regularly empty, or turn over any water-holding containers on your property such as tires, cans, flower pots, children's toys and trash cans.
- To prevent breeding in large water-holding devices, including bird baths or garden pools, use larvicides such as mosquito torpedoes or mosquito dunks. If used properly, larvicides will not harm animals.
- More tips can be found at <http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/mosquitoes.php>

### Dixon Road spray area:

Steeplechase Subdivision; Summer Oaks Subdivision; The Reserve Farragut; and Rockwell Farms will be treated Monday, Oct. 9, weather permitting. Follow-up spraying is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 23.



Deane Hill spray area:

Deane Hill Drive west of Morrell Road; Twining Drive; Kendall Road from Luxmore Drive to Twining Drive; Luxmore Drive east from Kendall Drive; Bosworth Road; Bardon Road; Moneta Road; Luscombe Drive west to Pocanno Road; Pocanno Road; Jerdan Road; Sabre Drive east from Nobscot Road; and Navarre Drive will be treated Monday, Oct. 9, weather permitting. Follow-up spraying is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 23.

These treatments are in addition to follow-up sprayings previously scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 8 in the Fairmont Boulevard, Milligan Street and Stone Road areas as well as sprayings scheduled for Monday, Oct. 9 in the Venice Road and Hardin Valley areas. A complete schedule of mosquito sprayings is available at [knoxcounty.org/health](http://knoxcounty.org/health). Any decisions to reschedule sprayings based on weather conditions, such as rain, low temperatures or high winds, will be made at the time of spraying and will be announced the following morning.

To reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease, KCHD conducts a West Nile virus control program during summer and fall months. As the weather warms each spring, public health professionals begin a weekly process of trapping and testing mosquitoes for WNV, a mosquito-borne disease which can infect humans, horses and birds. From March until the first frost, KCHD also uses larvicides in areas with standing water to prevent mosquito proliferation. These efforts are in addition to KCHD's work to assess and monitor for other mosquito-borne illnesses. More information is available by calling 865-215-5200 or visiting [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

**About Knox County Health Department**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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Areas scheduled for spraying Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, between 8:45 p.m. and 2 a.m.:



