



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevent Mosquito Bites by Controlling Mosquitoes

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Powell, OH. With miles of bike trails and plenty of parks, there is no shortage of reasons for Powell residents to enjoy summer.

One definite downside of the warmer, often wetter weather, however, is the presence of mosquitoes. Along with being downright annoying, mosquitoes can spread such diseases as West Nile virus and La Crosse Encephalitis, which makes them a public health concern. Cases of West Nile virus have appeared in Delaware County over the past several years, and the most recent local case of La Crosse Encephalitis was in 2005. Both diseases can cause long-term neurological difficulties.

In the City of Powell, mosquito control is coordinated by the Delaware General Health District. “We have changed our fogging policy in recent years and now fog only when a human mosquito-borne disease is detected here,” said Jesse Carter, public information officer for the health district. “This move away from the considerable amount of fogging that we undertook a few years ago was prompted in part by concerns from residents of the City of Powell. Our new policy is closer to the steps recommended by the Centers for Disease Control to control human diseases.”

In lieu of regular fogging, the health district has set nightly mosquito traps around the county, including within the city limits. Mosquitoes caught in the traps are shipped to the Ohio Department of Health for West Nile virus testing. Should a mosquito-borne disease be detected, fogging will take place to kill adult mosquitoes in the area. Carter said fogging plans are announced on the health district’s Web site, www.delawarehealth.org and recorded on the health district information line, 740-203-2015.

Residents are encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites and take steps to prevent mosquitoes around their homes. For optimum protection, the health district recommends wearing light-colored pants and a long-sleeved shirt, particularly in the early evening, as well as mosquito repellent containing DEET or Picaridin.

To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, empty standing water out of flower pots, bird baths, gutters and other outdoor containers. Carter said large areas of standing water can be treated with larvicide, which is sold commercially as “Mosquito Dunks.”

Those residents not wanting mosquito fogging adjacent to their property should call the health district at 740-368-1700 and request to be placed on a “no-fog list.” Anyone wanting to request fogging or report a mosquito infestation should contact the City of Powell offices at 614-885-5380. This information will be forwarded to the health district.

“We want to have that mechanism in place to know whether people are reporting mosquito concerns, which might make us adjust how we deploy our traps,” Carter said. “We want to keep our finger on the pulse of what people are saying.”

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