



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug.4, 2023

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Mosquitoes in West Hills area of Knoxville test positive for West Nile virus

Knoxville, Tenn. – The latest lab report has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in Culex mosquitoes in the West Hills area of Knoxville. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocol, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) will spray for mosquitoes in this area on Tuesday, Aug.8 between 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 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.

To reduce the risk of contracting WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases, KCHD recommends:

- Applying repellants to skin often when outdoors; repellants can be lotions, liquids or sprays. The CDC recommends the use of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered repellants containing one of the following ingredients: DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, paramenthane-diol, 2-undecanone or IR3535. The duration of protection varies by repellant. Read labels on products to determine when reapplications are necessary for optimal protection.
- Wearing socks and long, loose, and light-colored shirts and pants.
- Treating clothing with permethrin or purchasing pretreated permethrin clothing.
- Disposing of, regularly emptying, or turning over any water-holding containers on your property such as tires, cans, flower pots, children's toys and trash cans to reduce mosquito habitats.
- Using larvicides, such as mosquito torpedoes or mosquito dunks, to prevent mosquito proliferation in large water-holding containers, including bird baths and garden water features. If used properly, larvicides will not harm animals. More tips can be found at knoxcounty.org/health/mosquitoes.



Roads to be treated:

Somerset Rd, Manderly Way, Corteland Dr, Chesterfield Dr, Bennington Dr, Shadycrest Dr, Vanosdale Rd, Westdale Dr, Portsmouth Rd, Sheffield Dr, Churchill Rd, North Winston Rd, Buckingham Dr, Clubhouse Way, Garden Villa way, and Westbridge Dr. will be treated Tuesday, Aug. 8, weather permitting. A map of this area is attached below.

Frequently Asked Questions:

If someone doesn't want their yard to be sprayed, what can they do?

For those who request that KCHD not spray their yard, we can put "No Spray" signs in these yards. To opt out, please call KCHD's environmental health program at (865) 215-5200.

* If you are a **bee keeper** and do not want your area sprayed, please call (865) 215-5200.

After KCHD sprays this area, what is the next step?

Traps will continue to be set out throughout the county and monitored. If this location or another location identifies another WNV positive mosquito, then we will spray again.

What special precautions need to be made?

No special precautions are necessary, but KCHD encourages the community to continue with best practices of mosquito prevention, listed above.

Is the spray that KCHD uses toxic?

The spray is non-toxic to children and pets. KCHD also sprays at night to minimize the harm to pollinators.

About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.





7624 Sheffield Dr

Knoxville - Knox County - KUB Geographic Information System

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