



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

“To promote health and wellness with compassion and integrity through partnerships, education, protection, and advocacy for all who reside in and visit St. Joseph County.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2024

CONTACT: Jenny Parcell
574-235-9750 x 7904

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY **INCREASED HUMAN RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS**

The St. Joseph County Department of Health is urging residents to be aware of the threat of West Nile Virus in our area. Mosquitoes are being regularly trapped and are increasingly testing positive for West Nile Virus. There have been 38 positive pools of mosquitoes identified so far in 2024 and more are expected. There have been 3 documented human cases of West Nile in other counties in Indiana this year. In 2021, a St. Joseph County resident contracted West Nile Virus in the month of October. The threat of West Nile Virus will persist until a hard freeze. Additionally, Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been detected in lower Michigan.

Signs and symptoms of West Nile Virus disease usually appear within 2–14 days of a bite from an infected mosquito. These symptoms might include headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile Virus disease recover completely, but some can have persistent fatigue and weakness. For some, WNV can be severe. If you think that you have West Nile Virus disease, contact your health care provider.

The St. Joseph County Department of Health encourages you to take the following steps to protect you and your family from mosquitoes:

- Avoid being outdoors during prime mosquito biting times - dusk to dawn - when possible.
- Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-methane-diol to clothes and exposed skin.
- Cover exposed skin by wearing a hat, long sleeves and long pants in places where mosquitoes are especially active, such as wooded areas.
- Treat clothing and outdoor gear with 0.5% permethrin if camping or spending extended periods of time outdoors.
- Make sure all windows and doors have screens, and that all screens are in good repair.
- Reduce mosquito breeding on and around your property.

The St. Joseph County Department of Health does treat for mosquitoes, including spraying when public health threats are detected. To find out more information or sign up for spraying alerts, please go to the St.

Joseph County Department of Health's website:

<https://www.in.gov/localhealth/stjosephcounty/environmental-health/pests-and-vectors/mosquitoes/>

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227 W. Jefferson Blvd. | 8th Fl. | South Bend, IN 46601
P: (574) 235-9750 | F: (574) 235-9497



@stjosephcountyhealth



@sjchealth