Chatham-Kent Public Health
Environmental Health Team
P 519-352-7270 | F 519-436-3214

MEDIA RELEASE **Sept 22, 2026**

Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus

CK Public Health has received laboratory confirmation that mosquitoes collected Sept 15th, 2026, from a trap in Tilbury have tested positive for West Nile Virus. These are the first positive mosquitoes identified from this trap this season.

To monitor weekly data from our West Nile Virus surveillance program, please visit https://ckphu.com/ticks-mosquitoes/.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Many people infected with the virus experience no symptoms. Some may experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches and fatigue. In rare cases, infected individuals may experience more severe illness, including stiff neck, nausea, difficulty swallowing, vomiting, and paralysis. Anyone with severe symptoms should seek immediate medical attention. Older individuals and those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness.

West Nile Virus is a risk anytime mosquitoes bite. Protect yourself and your family by:

- Wearing light-coloured clothing, including long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks,
- Using insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin (follow the label directions),
- Staying indoors when mosquitoes are most active (dusk to dawn),
- Ensuring that all door and window screens are tight and free of holes, and
- Eliminating sources of standing water on your property to prevent mosquito breeding.

For more information on West Nile Virus, please visit https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/west-nile-virus.html or call CK Public Health at 519-352-7270.

-30-

Media Contact:
Jacquie Cartwright
Community Outreach & Public Relations Officer, CK Public Health
ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca