

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

Contact:
Gregg Hunt
Mosquito Control Director
843-255-5800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2017



DHEC Confirms First Human Case of West Nile Virus in Beaufort County

Recently, the [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control \(DHEC\)](#) reported that a few groups of mosquitoes on Hilton Head Island (HHI) tested positive for West Nile virus. DHEC has now confirmed the first human case of the virus in HHI. In response, Beaufort County Mosquito Control and DHEC have intensified their surveillance for this mosquito-borne disease. Mosquito Control has also increased the frequency of area treatments to control the adult mosquitoes.

Dead birds can help DHEC and local partners to track West Nile virus. Residents can report the finding of dead birds to DHEC. Learn how [here](#). Also, residents and visitors can use a Beaufort County Mosquito Control app to report dead birds. Learn how [here](#) or [here](#). DHEC is currently accepting submission of birds through November 30.

For more information about preventing mosquito bites and the spread of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, go to www.scdhec.gov/mosquitoes. Learn more about West Nile virus at www.scdhec.gov/westnile.

For additional information, please contact Beaufort County Mosquito Control at 843-255-5800.

Mosquito-borne Illnesses Prevention Tips

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 according to label instructions. Repellents help keep mosquitoes from biting.
- Wear clothing that reduces the risk of skin exposure.
- Exposure to mosquitoes is most common at night and during the early morning. Some species bite during the day, especially in wooded or other shaded areas. Avoid exposure during these times and in these areas.
- Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, bird baths, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls.

Other Important Information

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), symptoms of West Nile virus disease include the following:

- **No symptoms in most people.** Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms.

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

- **Febrile illness in some people.** About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.
- **Severe symptoms in a few people.** Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). The symptoms of neurologic illness can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, or paralysis.

