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*"Promoting and Protecting the
Health of Delaware County"*

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DCHD Launches 2026 Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program

Delaware County, PA – The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) Environmental Health Division, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will begin its **2026 Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program** on May 4, 2026. The program uses an Integrated Mosquito Management approach to monitor mosquito populations and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus, across Delaware County.

Integrated Mosquito Management includes a combination of mosquito surveillance, public outreach and education, adult and larval mosquito sampling, source reduction, larval control, and adult mosquito control activities. These coordinated strategies allow DCHD and DEP to monitor disease risk and respond effectively to protect public health while helping residents safely enjoy outdoor spaces during warmer months.

"As mosquito activity increases seasonally, proactive monitoring and control efforts are essential to reducing the risk of vector-borne disease," said Lora Siegmann Werner, MPH, Director of the Delaware County Health Department. "Our integrated approach combines surveillance, prevention, and community education to support a healthier and safer environment for all residents."

As part of surveillance efforts, DCHD utilizes Gravid and BG mosquito traps, which are typically placed in high-breeding areas away from residential homes. Surveillance data collected throughout the season helps guide targeted control efforts and informs public health decision-making.

DCHD encourages municipalities, organizations, and community members to support mosquito prevention efforts by reducing standing water, maintaining outdoor spaces, and sharing educational resources. Individuals can take measures around their home to help eliminate mosquito breeding areas including changing the water in birdbaths frequently, clean and chlorinate swimming pools, if left unattended for a while, the mosquito problem can travel throughout the neighborhood, drilling holes in the bottom of trash cans and recycling containers, remove anything that can catch or hold water or turn over items stored outside at the end of each day like children's pools and empty flower pots.

Outreach presentations are available upon request and provide information on mosquito surveillance, treatment strategies, and ways residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Additional information on mosquito-borne illness prevention is available through the following resources:

- Pennsylvania DEP Vector Management Program
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Vector-Management/Mosquitoes/Pages/default.aspx>
- CDC West Nile Virus Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention/index.html>
- CDC Tick Bite Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html

Delaware County Health Department currently implements this program in almost all Delaware County municipalities.

Residents with questions about the Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program or who are interested in scheduling an educational outreach event may contact the Delaware County Health Wellness Line at **484-276-2100** or DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us.

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