

PUBLIC NOTICE: Seasonal Mosquito Control & Property Maintenance

DEP Reported recently that a mosquito captured here in Conewago Township tested positive for West Nile Virus. As we enter the peak summer season, Township staff encourage all residents to take proactive steps to reduce mosquito breeding grounds on private property. While the Township conducts routine maintenance on public drainage systems and stormwater facilities, the most effective defense against mosquito-borne illness begins in our own backyards.

Why It Matters

Certain mosquito species, including those capable of carrying West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), thrive in stagnant water. Many of these species do not travel far from their hatching site. By eliminating standing water on your property, you protect not only your household but your immediate neighbors as well.

The "Tip, Toss, & Scrub" Rule

Mosquitoes require only a small amount of stagnant water—as little as a bottle cap—to complete their life cycle in fewer than seven days. We ask all residents to adopt a **weekly inspection** of their property:

- **TIP:** Empty standing water from flowerpot saucers, buckets, wheelbarrows, and plastic toys.
- **TOSS:** Properly dispose of any unused containers, particularly old tires, which are primary breeding sites due to their ability to hold water and organic debris.
- **SCRUB:** Mosquitoes lay eggs on the interior walls of containers just above the waterline. Simply dumping water is insufficient; please scrub the inside surfaces of birdbaths, pet dishes, and rain barrels with a stiff brush to destroy dormant eggs.

Managing Un-drainable Water

If you have water features that cannot be emptied, such as ornamental ponds or rain barrels, please utilize the following best practices:

- **Rain Barrels:** Ensure all intake and overflow points are covered with "bug-tight" fine mesh screening (16x16 mesh or finer).
- **Biological Control:** For permanent standing water, consider using **Bti ("Mosquito Dunks")**. This naturally occurring bacterium is available at most hardware and

garden supply stores. It is highly effective against mosquito larvae while remaining safe for humans, pets, birds, and beneficial pollinators.

Property Maintenance Standards

Residents are reminded to keep vegetation trimmed and drainage clear. Tall grass and dense, overgrown shrubbery provide "harborage" for adult mosquitoes seeking refuge from the midday sun. Please ensure your gutters are free of leaf litter and debris to prevent localized pooling on your roofline.

Reporting Concerns

If you identify persistent standing water on public property or suspect a violation of health and safety codes regarding stagnant water on neighboring lots, please contact the Township **Code Enforcement Office at 717.266.2122** or via email at:

Manager@conewagotwp.com. You are also encouraged to report potential issues directly to DEP using their online form located at:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/4a2565c0658d4a1d881ed84c037fd3d7>

Working together, we can ensure a safe and comfortable summer for the entire community!

Mark E. Stivers, AICP

Township Manager