

Ohio Mosquito Surveillance Update (7/30/2020)

Out of the 88 counties in Ohio, there are 33 counties (including Meigs) that are conducting the integrated mosquito management (IMM) practices that include mosquito surveillance. Local counties that are conducting surveillance include Athens, Hocking, and Vinton.

From May of 2020 to the latest update (7/30/2020), there have been no human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Ohio, but WNV has been found in *Culex sp.* when tested in the lab at the Ohio Department of Health's main office. So far, there have been 189 pools of mosquitoes that have been positive for WNV, with 184 of those pools in Franklin County. A pool of mosquitoes is a collection that had 50+ mosquitoes caught during one trapping period.

The *Aedes sp.* mosquitoes are closely monitored in Ohio and other states because of their history of being vectors for diseases such as Chikungunya, Dengue, La Crosse, and Zika virus. The Zika virus is much more common in the southern states of the US, but as temperatures begin to rise, it is important to monitor for this virus as it may travel further north. Starting the monitoring now will allow health agencies to catch the virus quicker if it does begin to be present in mosquitoes found in northern states, and the data collected can help us understand how the virus is traveling and how quickly it is moving. There have been 887 Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) identified throughout Ohio, with 3 identified in Meigs County. There have also been 795 Eastern treehole mosquitoes (*Aedes triseriatus*) identified in Ohio. None have been identified from Meigs County.

The mosquito control program is funded by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency through the Mosquito Control Grant (MCG) Program that the OEPA and the Ohio Department of Health have been collaborating on since 2016. The grant was made in an effort to give funding to entities, such as county health departments, that implement a mosquito monitoring program in their area in an effort to decrease the possibility of an outbreak of a mosquito-borne disease. Along with the mosquito monitoring, entities that are involved must reduce the threat of scrap tires as mosquito breeding grounds to increase the safety of public health in the area.

For updates on the 2020 mosquito surveillance data, visit the Ohio Department of Health's website. Keep in mind; it may take a while to update the website due to the current focus on COVID-19 updates. Website can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/known-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/news-and-events/vectorborne-disease-update>

For more information about the MCG Program, visit the Ohio EPA's website at: <https://epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/MosquitoControlGrant>