



**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DIRECTOR
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April 22, 2026

via email

Dear Centre County Official:

On April 6th, 2026, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“PaDEP”), Centre County West Nile Virus (“WNV”) Program, kicked off the 2026 tick and mosquito surveillance season. While most insects provide beneficial effects, such as being part of the food web or acting as pollinators for plants, ticks and mosquitoes can become a biting nuisance or more importantly transmit diseases that can make you sick. WNV is a mosquito borne disease that produces severe neurological symptoms in approximately one percent of humans that become infected. There are approximately 60 species of mosquitoes in Pennsylvania, of these, 12 are capable of infecting humans with WNV. Each week the Centre County WNV Program collects environmental samples of tick and mosquito populations from our communities to assess disease transmission potential. An additional disease transmitted by mosquitoes is Jamestown Canyon Virus (“JCV”), and was first detected in Pennsylvania mosquitoes in 2023. JCV can cause inflammation of the brain with possible flu-like symptoms, infecting an average of 23 US residents annually. Sampling for JCV infected mosquitoes is done biweekly. Communities with mosquito and tick populations showing elevated disease risks are proactively targeted with control measures and personal protection education. Additionally, PaDEP uses the data collected to [publish seasonal risk values](#) throughout the Commonwealth. Funding for the collection, testing and control of tick and mosquito populations is supported through a grant provided by PaDEP.

In Centre, Clearfield and Clinton Counties in 2025 there were 22 positive tests for WNV, and 2 JCV positive test total, all from mosquitoes and 0 from humans. Centre County totaled 18 positive mosquito samples for West Nile Virus within Spring, Patton, Harris, College and Rush Townships as well as State College Borough. JCV was detected twice in Centre County mosquitoes within State College Borough.

Between May and the end of September, adult mosquito trapping will be periodically conducted in your municipality. All surveillance equipment will be labeled as to its purpose and will contain contact information. You may see Centre County WNV Program biologists collecting insects by dragging a white cloth along the edge of local parks or setting mosquito traps, or sampling larval habitat to measure the risk of tick and mosquito populations transmitting diseases in Centre County. While our agency actively monitors tick and mosquito populations, all residents in our community have a shared responsibility to reduce habitat for these insects. We encourage the reduction of standing water and the creation of a tick-safe zone around your property. Further steps to prevent bites from mosquitoes and ticks include:

- Insect repellent, used properly, to keep mosquitoes and ticks off your skin. Now recommended is the use of repellents that are EPA approved containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, and adults should help apply repellents to children under 12.
- It is advisable to wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants, as well as socks to avoid skin contact with insects. Wearing light-colored clothing provides an easier way to notice and remove any insects before they can cause harm.
- Perform daily tick checks after being outdoors, even in your own yard. Inspect all parts of your body carefully, including your armpits, scalp, and groin. Remove ticks immediately using fine-tipped tweezers.
- Early morning, late afternoon, and early evening are peak biting times for mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus. It's especially important to use repellent if you're outdoors at these times.
- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in water, even in small containers. Walk around the outside of your home at least once a week and empty any water that's collected in toys, pet food and water bowls, birdbaths, buckets, and other objects. Check under bushes and other hard-to-see places. Get rid of old tires and other objects that can collect water.
- Create a tick-safe zone around your home. For example: remove leaf litter and clear grasses and brush around your home and the edge of the lawn, and place mulch between lawns and wooded areas to keep ticks off the places you work and play the most.
- Check for and repair holes in window and door screens.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact the County Planning & Community Development Office. The Pennsylvania Department of Health website www.westnile.state.pa.us contains more information, as well as up to date local and statewide surveillance results during the mosquito season.

Sincerely,
CENTRE COUNTY MOSQUITO DISEASE CONTROL



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