



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: August 18, 2025

CONTACT: Tina Bernard, 330-627-4866 ext. 1524
Carroll County General Health District

Carroll County General Health District Urges Residents to Take Precautions Against Mosquito and Tick-Borne Diseases

The Carroll County General Health District is urging residents to take steps to protect themselves from mosquito and tick bites, as the risk of diseases like West Nile virus and Lyme disease continues to grow in our county. These illnesses are becoming more common locally, making prevention more important than ever to keep our community safe and healthy.

Through its seasonal surveillance program, the Carroll County General Health District collects mosquito samples and submits them to the Ohio Department of Health for testing. Recent results confirmed West Nile Virus in mosquito populations from Brown Township and Washington Township. Although no human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Carroll County to date, the presence of the virus in local mosquitoes is a strong reminder that protective measures are necessary.

Additionally, a Carroll County child was recently diagnosed with La Crosse Encephalitis, a rare but serious disease spread by the Eastern Treehole Mosquito. This case highlights that illnesses caused by mosquitoes can occur locally, emphasizing the importance of taking steps to avoid mosquito bites. To protect yourself and your family:

- Use EPA-registered repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Wear long sleeves and pants, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- Eliminate standing water around your home to prevent mosquito breeding
- Ensure window and door screens are intact to keep mosquitoes out

Mosquitoes are not the only pests posing a threat this summer, ticks are also a growing concern. Cases of Lyme disease, spread by infected blacklegged ticks, continue to climb in Carroll County. Between January and June 2025, 76 cases have already been reported. The number of Lyme Disease cases in Carroll County have increased by 155% from 2020 to 2024:

- 2024: 120 cases
- 2023: 157 cases
- 2022: 104 cases
- 2021: 74 cases
- 2020: 47 cases

Symptoms of Lyme Disease can include fever, headache, fatigue, joint or muscle pain, or a rash. If you have these symptoms, see a doctor right away as Lyme Disease can get worse over time if not treated.



To Prevent Tick Bites:

- Avoid wooded or brushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter
- Walk in the center of trails
- Use tick repellents and wear permethrin-treated clothing
- Shower soon after being outdoors and perform full-body tick checks
- Check pets and gear for ticks after returning indoors

For more information regarding tick and mosquito-borne diseases visit the Ohio Department of Health website at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/welcome>

XXXX