



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Department of Personnel & Civil Service Commission

Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor

Judy Hill Finegan, Director

Memorandum

To: Departmental Directors and Bureau Chiefs
From: Judy Hill Finegan, Director
Date: August 6, 2013
RE: **Mosquito-related Illness**

Per the Allegheny County Health Department, the Asian Tiger mosquito has been identified in Lawrenceville which has raised concerns about mosquito-related illnesses such as West Nile Virus and other rare forms of encephalitis. Please note that Dengue Fever is not a risk to Pennsylvania residents as this is a tropical disease (<http://www.healthmap.org/dengue/index.php>).

The health department suggests that people check their yards and neighborhoods for mosquito breeding pools and eliminate them; empty and turn over plastic wading pools when not in use; drain water from plastic coverings on swimming pools and outdoor furniture; properly filter/chlorinate backyard swimming pools and dismantle those not in use; fill in depressions on the lawn to prevent accumulation of water; and repair leaky outdoor faucets that can create a pool of stagnant water.

When working in an area where mosquitos are abundant, protect your skin with clothing (long pant and shirt, socks) and using a repellent to deter being bit. Dead birds can be a sentinel for detecting West Nile Virus infection in an area. Please report dead birds to the Allegheny County Health Department (<http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/BirdReporting/>).

Per the CDC, there have been no reported cases of human West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive Disease or mosquito-related encephalitis in 2013 in Pennsylvania.

(<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsMaps/preliminaryMapsData/incidencestatedate.html>).

Symptoms of Mosquito-related Illness

No Symptoms in Most People - Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms.

Febrile Illness in Some People - About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

Severe Symptoms in Few People - Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues).

If there are any questions about this topic, please do not hesitate to contact David C Reed, Safety Manager with the City of Pittsburgh @ 412-255-2403 or david.reed@pittsburghpa.gov.