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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Miami County Public Health reports positive testing for
West Nile Virus in mosquitoes**

TROY, OH (8/1/2018) – Miami County Public Health (MCPH) received notice from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that West Nile Virus was detected in a group of mosquitoes sent to ODH. The positive group of mosquitoes was found on the south side of Troy near Waco Park. MCPH staff will survey the area to identify potential mosquito breeding grounds as well as to provide information on eliminating breeding grounds to residents in the area.

At the recommendation of MCPH, the City of Troy will spray within a 1-mile radius of the positive mosquito test at Waco Park. Spraying will commence at dusk on Thursday, August 2nd. “It’s not surprising to me with all of the media reports about West Nile and tick activity throughout Ohio this season. The City spot sprays our park areas as needed each year. However, whether we spray or not does not guarantee a mosquito carrying the virus won’t fly into our community,” stated Troy Mayor Michael Beamish.

Public Health staff has been trapping and testing mosquitoes throughout the county since earlier this summer. This is the first positive test for West Nile Virus in mosquitoes in Miami County this year. There have been no human cases reported so far this year in Miami County, but Ohio has had two human cases in 2018. Across the state of Ohio in this year, there have been 32 counties report West Nile Virus Activity, which includes positive mosquito tests, as well as cases of the virus in humans and horses.

West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Most people are infected in Ohio by the northern house mosquito, *Culex pipiens*. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals when they bite.

West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in New York City in 1999 and quickly spread across the country within a few years. West Nile virus is now established in Ohio where





cases occur each year and seasonal epidemics can flare up under certain conditions in the summer and continue into the fall.

Since West Nile Virus has been detected, all residents in the community are being advised to protect themselves.

The best way to protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus is to avoid mosquitoes and mosquito bites by using EPA registered repellants when you go outdoors, or avoid outdoor activity during peak mosquito biting hours (dusk to dawn).

Be sure to plan ahead for mosquitoes while traveling by checking travel notices for mosquito-borne and other disease transmission updates. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Travelers' Health website to search for the latest health notices for the country you're traveling to. Speak to your healthcare provider about your travel plans and measures you can take to reduce your risk of mosquito-borne diseases. Also, pack appropriately to protect yourself from mosquitoes by bringing insect repellents, appropriate clothing and mosquito netting if sleeping outdoors or in unscreened structures.

Stop mosquitoes from breeding in and around your home by discarding and emptying water-holding containers and using products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), available at many garden and home improvement stores, to control mosquito larvae in containers that are too large to empty. Also be sure to keep mosquitoes outside by installing or repairing screens on windows and doors.

For more information, contact Miami County Public Health at 937-573-3500, go to www.miamicountyhealth.net or contact Troy Assistant City Director Tom Funderburg at 937-339-7639.

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