

News Release 10/30/2017
Columbiana County Health Department continues to warn
residents of Vector Borne Diseases

Lisbon-The Columbiana County Health Department reported today that a second horse in Negley, Columbiana County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the 12th horse positive for WNV in Ohio this year. Here are the details ODA (Ohio Department of Agriculture) provided:

A 5 year old Percheron gelding from Negley, Ohio in Columbiana County (second confirmed case) presented on 10/15/17 with acute onset of ataxia, weakness in the rear limbs and a temperature of 101 F. Outcome and vaccine status information is pending as of 10/27/17

A vaccine is available for horses to protect them from this virus.

There still have been no human cases of WNV in Columbiana County.

The Columbiana County Health Department is also getting reports from outdoorsman and hunters that the adult black legged tick commonly referred to as the "deer tick" is peaking its presence in in eastern counties throughout the state and warns to take precaution as this species of tick can carry Lyme Disease.

Symptoms of early localized Lyme disease begin days or weeks after infection. They are similar to the flu and may include: Body-wide itching, Chills, Fever, General ill-feeling, Headache, Light-headedness or fainting, Muscle Pain and Stiff neck. There may be a "bull's eye" rash, a flat or slightly raised red spot at the site of the tick bite. Often there is a clear area in the center. It can be quite large and expanding in size.

If you have been near a possible area where ticks may be present and experience any of the above, please contact your physician.

Lyme disease can cause long-term joint inflammation (Lyme arthritis) and heart rhythm problems. Brain and nervous system problems are also possible, and may include: Decreased concentration, Memory disorders, Nerve damage, Numbness, Pain, Paralysis of the face muscles, Sleep disorders, and Vision problems.

Avoid tick-infested areas such as tall grass and dense vegetation, Tuck your pants into sock tops or boots, Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to find crawling ticks. Use repellants such as pyrethrin and follow label instructions carefully. Check with your veterinarian for products that repel ticks on pets. Check yourself, your children and pets frequently for ticks. Bathe or shower after exposure to tick habitat (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be crawling on you.

If a tick is attached, remove it as soon as possible to reduce your risk of infection.

Use the following method for removal:

Shield fingers with a paper towel or use tweezers. Grasp the tick close to the skin. With steady pressure, pull the tick straight up and out.

Avoid crushing the tick. Do not use a hot match, cigarette, nail polish, petroleum jelly or other products to remove a tick.

After removing a tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash hands with soap and water.

If you suspect ticks are attached to clothing, drying the items first on high heat for 30 minutes should kill them or for 60 minutes if the items are wet.

For more information please contact the Columbiana County Environmental Division for the Columbiana County General Health District at (330) 424-0272, our website at www.columbiana-health.org or like us on Facebook.