

ALLEN BEALS, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

ROBERT MORRIS, P.E.
Director of Environmental Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509

Phone # (845) 808-1390

Fax # (845) 278-7921

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 31, 2012

Contact: Barbara Haldi, Public Information Officer, (845) 808-1390

HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO

REMOVE STANDING WATER TO AVOID MOSQUITO BREEDING

Brewster, NY - The Putnam County Department of Health is advising residents to take precautions against West Nile virus (WNV) infection. Surrounding counties have reported finding mosquito pools testing positive for WNV. Yesterday, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported the first human case of WNV in a Staten Island man. While there have been no confirmed reports of West Nile virus infection in Putnam County, with the recent heavy rains and flooding, homeowners should continue to re-inspect areas around homes and yards and eliminate potential mosquito breeding grounds. This includes removing all sources of standing water – tarps, buckets, cups, toys, etc.

In addition, personal protection measures should be taken for any outdoor activities. Wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors. Application of a mosquito repellent containing DEET (N,N,-diethyl-m-toluamide) should also be considered to prevent mosquito bites. It is important to follow label directions and NEVER allow children to apply DEET products to themselves.

The Health Department continues to apply larvicide to targeted catch basins around the county as weather permits. **For more information on preventing mosquito breeding around homes, please call the Putnam County Health Department at (845) 808-1390 or visit the Health Department's website at: www.putnamcountyny.com.**

###