

SHERLITA AMLER, MD, MS, FAAP
Commissioner of Health



PAUL ELDRIDGE
County Executive

ROBERT MORRIS, PE
Director of Environmental Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2011

Contact: Sherlita Amler, M.D., Commissioner of Health
845-808-1390

**HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS
REPORTED IN A PUTNAM COUNTY RESIDENT**

PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK - The Putnam County Department of Health has been notified that a 30-year-old Brewster resident has been confirmed positive for West Nile virus. The individual exhibited viral symptoms and was seen by a primary care physician. The person did not require hospitalization and has fully recovered. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne infection that can cause serious illness and occasionally death. Many individuals who contract West Nile virus do not experience any type of illness, and an estimated twenty percent of people whom become infected develop only mild symptoms including fever, headache and body aches.

Eliminating potential mosquito breeding grounds is key – especially with the recent heavy rains and flooding. Homeowners should continue to re-inspect areas around homes and yards and remove 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.**

#