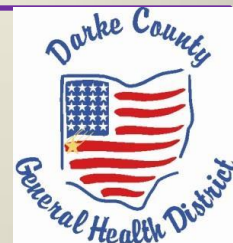


Mosquitoes of Ohio



How many Mosquitoes are in Ohio?

The State of Ohio has about **60 species of mosquitoes**, but not all species live in Darke County. Also, **most species are not able to spread diseases**, and instead are more of a nuisance.



Figure 1. A Toxorhynchites mosquito. They are beneficial mosquitoes because they do not bite, and they eat other mosquitoes as larvae.

Can I get sick from a mosquito bite?

- The short answer is Yes
- In Darke County there are some species of mosquitoes which could carry disease if they were to bite and infected animal or person. Since this is our first year sampling mosquitoes, we do not know if we have infected mosquitoes which are just not biting people, or if we do not have infected mosquitoes.
- **West Nile Virus is in Ohio** and is transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Neighboring counties have found infected mosquitoes other years, and there have been human cases of West Nile in Darke County before.
- It is really difficult for mosquitoes to pick up a disease and live long enough to spread it. Even though the transmission rate is low, anyone who is bitten by a mosquito is at risk.

What should I do to prevent mosquito bites?

- **Drain or treat all standing water** on your property.
- **Avoid mosquito bites** – wear long sleeves when outside, and try to limit outdoor activities during peak biting times of dawn and dusk.
- **Use mosquito repellent** when outdoors. Repellents with DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or lemon eucalyptus oil, are effective when used following the manufacturers instructions.
- Maintain a well trimmed property, with no brush or tall grasses for mosquitoes to rest and hide in.