

## 12 Kellogg pools have West Nile

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Post staff reporters*

Half of the mosquito pools that have tested positive for West Nile [Virus](#) in Hamilton County this summer have come from Kellogg Park in Anderson Township, county health district officials said Friday.

In all, 12 pools of mosquitoes collected from Kellogg Park have tested positive.

Countywide, the Hamilton County Health District has sent about 36,000 mosquitoes to the Ohio Health Department for testing since June. Twenty-four pools have tested positive.

Because individual mosquitoes can't be tested, pools of mosquitoes, usually consisting of about 50 insects, are tested.

As of Friday, the Hamilton County Health District had submitted 6,033 mosquitoes from Kellogg Park to the Ohio Health Department for testing, according to Hamilton County General Health District spokesman Pete Gemmer.

"The higher numbers at Kellogg Park aren't surprising just because it's near a river," he said.

The park is the only collection site in Anderson Township, he said.

The number of positive samples at Kellogg isn't what concerns health officials, Gemmer said.

"The important thing is that once a pool tests positive, you know it's in that population."

It could also mean West Nile is in other areas of the county, and people should take precautions, he said

The Hamilton County General Health District and the Anderson Township Park District are working to kill the mosquitoes. The park district is filling in puddles and offering mosquito repellent for sale at concession stands, while the health district is using mosquito-killing tablets at the park.

The park district issued an advisory about the positive tests Wednesday to coaches, football and soccer players, and families who use Kellogg Park.

In an e-mail that went out to at least 800 people and in phone calls to heads of organizations that use the park and its football fields, Anderson Park District officials reminded park users to use insect repellent, stay out of puddles and try to avoid the park after dark.

Park district officials pointed out that even in areas where West Nile is [discovered](#), humans' chances of getting the virus are slim.

Less than 1 percent of mosquitoes carry the virus and less than 1 percent of people who are bitten become seriously ill.

People over 50 and those with compromised immune systems are most at risk, park officials said.

Officials warned that the virus could make people ill and even kill.

Kentucky health officials last week announced that preliminary tests indicated that a Boone County man was the state's first case of West Nile this year. He had been diagnosed with West Nile Fever, a less virulent form of the illness.

Doug Garcia of Walton said Tuesday that he became ill July 15 and a blood test last week confirmed that he had West Nile. Garcia was never hospitalized and has nearly recovered from the malady.

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