

# Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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[www.yorkcity.org](http://www.yorkcity.org)

## West Nile Virus Season Starts Now

On May 16, 2014, the Pennsylvania West Nile Virus Control Program announced the first positive mosquito pool for the season in the State – Lower Paxton Township in Dauphin County. West Nile Virus (WNV) is transmitted to humans by WNV-infected mosquitoes. Illness from WNV can range from mild non-specific symptoms sometimes with a fever, to severe encephalitis and even death.

Take a few simple steps around your home to reduce your risk of contracting the WNV. Because mosquitoes breed in standing water, even a small bucket that has stagnant water in it for four days can become home to many mosquitoes.

- Dispose of cans, containers, pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property. Do not overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Pay special attention to discarded tires that may have accumulated on your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors. Drainage holes that are located on a container's sides allow them to collect enough water for mosquitoes to breed.
- Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Clean birdbaths at least weekly.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. A wading pool becomes a mosquito producer if it is not used on a regular basis.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths for more than four days.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Be aware that mosquitoes may even breed in water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes can develop in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.

A special website has been established to provide citizens with background information and regular updates about WNV and is available at [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us). Visitors to the website can sign up to automatically receive news releases and other updates via e-mail.

## Matter of Balance Program Offering Community Classes

The Matter of Balance Program is designed to reduce the fear of falling in adults, and in particular, in seniors. This free program is open to residents to attend at the York YMCA beginning in June. Please contact the Health Bureau at 849-2299 to speak to our Community Health Specialists about the details of the program.

## Reportable Conditions 2014 York, PA

Reported Cases	Apr. 2014	Cum.
Animal Bites	24	42
Chlamydia	55	174
Gonorrhea	11	51
Hepatitis B	1	3
Hepatitis C	8	30
HIV Infection	2	3
Influenza Type A	0	46
Influenza Type B	5	8
Influenza, Not Specified	1	1
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	2	2
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	1	30
Varicella	1	1
<b>Total Case Reports</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>391</b>

## York City Health Bureau Announces Dental Varnish Program

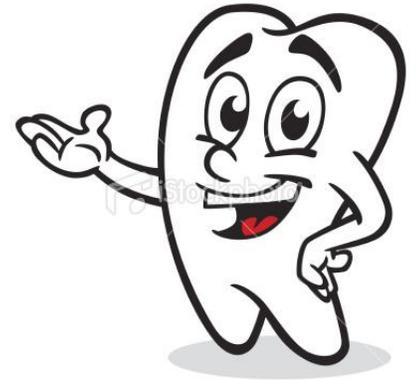
The York City Bureau of Health is now offering free fluoride varnish applications to help improve our children's dental health. This free service is available to all children residing within the City of York. The program is offered to children from eruption of their first tooth up to the age of 16 years. Funding for this new program in part comes from a Pennsylvania Department of Health grant.

Dental disease is five times more common than asthma and almost half of all children suffer from dental disease before they enter Kindergarten. Abscesses and painful teeth are among the leading causes of missed school and loss of work for parents. Speech problems and poor appetite may also occur.

The water supply in the City of York does not contain fluoride, which has been proven to make teeth stronger so cavities are less likely to start. Good oral hygiene and regular dental visits are also needed to ensure better oral health.

Registered Nurses at the York City Bureau of Health have been trained to 'paint' the fluoride varnish on the outer surface of the teeth. It is fast, easy and painless. All children will receive a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss for take home use. Parents interested in dental varnish treatment for their children should call (717) 815-0910 for an appointment.

For further information about the Health Bureau's new program, contact: Terri Fitzgerald, RN, Dental Varnish Program Coordinator at (717) 849-2296.



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