



## Knox County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2021

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### **KCHD's Service Spotlight: Environmental Health**

*This week's spotlight highlights KCHD's Mosquito-transmitted Disease Prevention and Vector Control Program*

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — Knox County Health Department (KCHD) Environmental Health Manager, Kevin Clark will take the over as Director of Environmental Health as the former director Ronnie Nease recently retired after more than 30 years of service with the health department. One of the Environmental Health division's priorities this summer: mosquitoes.

To address public health concerns caused by mosquitoes as temperatures rise and mosquito populations increase, KCHD conducts a mosquito control program during the spring and summer months. To start, public health professionals begin trapping mosquitoes around the county and testing batches weekly for West Nile virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease which can infect humans, horses and birds.

It is important to know how to help control the mosquito population where you live and how to protect yourself from mosquito bites. Mosquitoes are a nuisance and can transmit diseases in East Tennessee, including West Nile virus and La Crosse encephalitis.

"It's essential to eliminate breeding grounds," said Director of Environmental Health Kevin Clark. "Taking the steps to empty water-holding containers on your property such as tires, toys, flowerpots, or trash cans can help control the mosquito population."

Information regarding mosquito control and bite safety is available on the KCHD website [here](#). In addition, mosquito control employees are available to speak to homeowner's associations, community and civic groups, and health fairs. For more information, call 865-215-5200.

### **About Knox County Health Department**

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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