LVMC Decks Compares Porch Enclosures as Mosquito Season Continues Into Fall

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NAZARETH, PA - October 23, 2026 -
Pennsylvania's health department says West Nile virus risk can continue until the first hard frost. Its June 2026 advisory identified Monroe County among the counties with positive mosquito samples early in the season, but it did not measure conditions in a particular East Stroudsburg backyard. For someone planning a porch, the practical decision is which enclosure fits the way they want to sit outside while insects may still be active. LVMC Decks lists covered, screened and more enclosed porches among its local offerings.

The state advisory is a public-health notice, not a forecast of mosquitoes on a particular evening. Pennsylvania's October 16 activity map likewise summarizes positive samples collected during the 2026 surveillance year. Neither document says LVMC has launched an insect-control service or that any porch can prevent infection. The distinction matters because the construction decision concerns the space where people sit, while health guidance also addresses the yard and personal protection.

A covered porch gives people a roof over the seating area. It can provide shade and some shelter from rain, but its open sides do not create a mosquito barrier. A household that likes an open view may prefer precisely that openness, accepting that insects remain part of the outdoor experience. A roof alone should not be sold as an answer to a problem occurring around the dinner table at dusk.

A screened porch changes the boundary without turning the space into an indoor room. Air can move through mesh while the screen separates the seating area from much of the activity outside. The doors and edges matter as much as the large panels. The CDC advises repairing holes in window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors; the same ordinary principle makes it sensible to inspect openings, door fit and screen condition when planning or maintaining a porch. No screen makes a yard mosquito-free, and an open door or a damaged panel can let insects inside.

For an existing porch, the decision begins with the structure already in place. A roof and floor do not establish

that the posts, openings or doors suit a proposed screen or window enclosure. An owner may need to consider how a new entry would work, whether the view is important and how much ventilation they want. For a new porch, those choices can be addressed while the layout is still being developed rather than after the framing fixes the opening sizes. Neither situation supports a blanket promise that screening can be added without changing the structure.

An operable-window enclosure offers a different trade-off. Closed panels can block direct airflow and insects through those openings; opening a window without its screen changes that condition. A three-season design is not automatically a year-round conditioned room. A four-season room raises a more extensive set of questions about enclosure, weather protection and intended use. Calling either one a mosquito solution misses the larger decision about how much of the outdoor feel the household wants to keep. Homeowners should compare actual openings and products, not rely on a category name alone.

Mosquito conditions beyond the porch remain a separate responsibility. Monroe County Vector Control collects samples, looks for breeding grounds and accepts complaints about large populations or known breeding areas. The CDC also recommends dealing with water-holding containers and using appropriate personal protection. Building a screened room does not replace those steps or change county surveillance findings.

LVMC's service description identifies screened porches, covered porches and enclosure systems as existing options. The useful comparison starts with a household's actual priorities: a roof for shelter, screens for a barrier around the sitting area, or an enclosure whose closable openings change how that space feels in cooler weather. The health department's reminder that risk can continue until frost supplies a reason to distinguish those choices, not a claim that any building project can control the mosquitoes on a property.
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LVMC Decks

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