



News Release



Shelby County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2013

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Shelby County Health Department's Vector Control Program Celebrates National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

MEMPHIS – National Mosquito Control Awareness Week will be recognized June 23-29 by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA).

Locally, the Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) Vector Control Program works year-round to control the mosquito population through larviciding, adulticiding and public awareness and outreach. Larviciding, the most effective method of reducing mosquito populations, is applied to bodies of water known to produce mosquitoes. Adulticiding (truck-mounted spraying) is the more visible method of reducing mosquitoes and is scheduled during the height of mosquito season to treat specific ZIP codes as deemed necessary.

“Source reduction is one of our primary means to address the mosquito populations in Shelby County,” said Tyler Zerwekh, DrPh, administrator of the SCHD Environmental Health Services Bureau. “Our scientific-based approach to controlling the populations is both aggressive and innovative. This is a week we dedicate to educating everyone on ways they can assist us.”

The most effective ways individuals can protect themselves and their families is by doing the following:

- Wear DEET-containing mosquito repellants according to label directions
- Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs. Check properties for objects - including old tires, flower pots and drip plates, tin cans, buckets, and children's toys - that collect rainwater and either drain or dispose of the water
- Install or repair windows and door screens
- Empty, clean and refill birdbaths and small wading pools weekly
- Empty and refill pets' water bowls every few days
- Repair failed septic systems
- Repair leaky outside faucets
- Clean rain gutters and down spouts
- Secure swimming pool covers tightly and remove any standing water after rainfall
- Store wheelbarrows, canoes and boats upside down
- Stock ornamental lawn ponds with fish (Gambusia) that eat mosquito larvae (Gambusia fish are available FREE from the Vector Control Program – please call for availability)

A copy of the 2012 West Nile Report, containing protective strategies, statistics and surveillance, can be found at <http://shelbycountyttn.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/12439>.

For information on the efforts of Vector Control's Mosquito Control Program, visit the following locations to celebrate Mosquito Control Awareness Week:

Wed., June 26

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Benjamin Hooks Central Library
3030 Poplar Avenue

Thurs., June 27

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Goodwill Homes Senior Center
163 W. Raines

Thurs., June 27

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

38106 Joint Agency Partnership
City University School of Liberal Arts
1500 Dunn Avenue

For more information about Shelby County's Mosquito Control efforts or to report a mosquito nuisance, call **(901) 222-9715**, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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