



News Release



Shelby County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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West Nile Virus Detected in Shelby County Mosquito Control Activities Scheduled

MEMPHIS, TN – The Shelby County Health Department has received confirmation of mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus within ZIP codes **38018, 38116, and 38141**. These are the first positive mosquito pools found within Shelby County in 2015.

Since April, the Shelby County Health Department's Vector Control Program has treated areas by applying larvicides to standing bodies of water. These actions are consistent with the Health Department's efforts to be proactive in decreasing the adult mosquito population. Larviciding is the practice of applying an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insecticide to areas where mosquito breeding has been confirmed and is the most effective way of eliminating mosquito populations.

As an additional precaution, the Health Department will conduct mosquito control activities, including truck-mounted spraying (adulticiding) of EPA-approved insecticides, **weather permitting***, in portions of specific ZIP codes according to the following schedule:

Monday, June 8th

8:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
ZIP Codes: 38106, 38109, 38116

Tuesday, June 9th

8:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
ZIP Codes: 38125, 38141

Wednesday, June 10th

8:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
ZIP Codes: 38016, 38018, 38028

Thursday, June 11th

8:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
ZIP Codes: 38106, 38109, 38116, 38118, 38130, 38131, 38132

New feature: Citizens can now view the exact boundaries of each scheduled spray. Please visit <http://www.schdresponse.com/content/mosquito-control-activity-schedule>. New maps will be added weekly to reflect updated schedules.

Truck mounted spraying only effectively kills adult mosquitoes that are currently flying at the time the insecticide is released. Because of this, residents are highly encouraged to be vigilant as it relates to controlling mosquito populations around their homes and businesses. Citizens are encouraged to:

- Wear DEET-containing mosquito repellants according to label directions (especially during evening hours)
- 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 – (901) 222-9715**)

Individuals with chronic health problems such as asthma or other lung conditions may want to remain indoors during the time of spraying. Citizens who **do not** want their residences to be sprayed should contact the Health Department's Vector Control Program at **(901) 222-9715**.

Humans can catch the West Nile virus through being bitten by an infected mosquito. Although West Nile virus can occasionally cause severe disease, most human infections are mild, resulting in fever, headache and body aches that last only a few days. Symptoms of severe disease include a high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma or convulsions. Persons over age 50 and those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk of severe disease. They should especially be careful to avoid mosquito bites.

* To ensure the insecticide is most effective, the scheduled spraying will be canceled if any of the following weather conditions are present for the majority of the schedule spray time:

- Greater than a 65% chance of rain
- Wind speeds 11mph or greater
- Temperature less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit

Follow @SCHDRresponse for the most up-to-date cancellations of any scheduled sprayings.

A copy of the 2014 WNV report can be found at <http://shelbycountyttn.gov/index.aspx?NID=2404>