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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Shelby County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS TWO HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASES; URGES RESIDENTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM MOSQUITOS

Mosquito control activities next week to target zip codes with positive mosquitoes

SHELBY COUNTY, TN – Shelby County Health Department (SCHD), along with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), this week confirmed the first human cases of West Nile virus in Shelby County detected so far in 2022 in Shelby County and the state of Tennessee.

West Nile virus can cause serious illness that leads to hospitalization or death. However, most cases cause no symptoms and go undetected. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people over age 60 are the most likely to develop severe illness. The Shelby County Health Department recommends that all residents protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing protective clothing, staying indoors during dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, and using mosquito repellents that contain DEET.

West Nile virus is spread by infected mosquitoes. SCHD monitors the presence of the virus in the county's mosquito populations each summer by trapping and testing mosquitoes throughout the county for the virus. The virus has so far been detected in mosquitoes in 14 Shelby County zip codes, including: 38138, 38116, 38105, 38126, 38017, 38141, 38119, 38028, 38122, 38134, 38117, 38107, 38112, and 38108. This map shows the positive zip codes: <https://arcg.is/0DnLDK0>. Even if your zip code is not listed, SCHD urges you to take the following precautions to protect yourself against mosquitoes that can spread the West Nile virus:

- **DEFEND** yourself by using insect repellent with DEET. Follow label instructions.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants. Wear loose and light-colored clothing when outdoors.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is the time when mosquitoes are most active. Stay indoors.
- **DRAIN** standing water and install or repair window screens.

Shelby County Health Department's Mosquito Control program conducts mosquito control activities all year long, applying larvicides to ditches and standing bodies of water to kill mosquito larvae and decrease the adult mosquito populations.

Additionally, Mosquito Control conducts truck-mounted spraying to control the spread of adult mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus. Mosquito Control sprays zip codes where West Nile Virus has been detected and adjacent zip codes. Every zip code in Shelby County will be sprayed at least twice by the end of mosquito season.

Weather permitting*, SCHD will conduct truck-mounted spraying in the following ZIP codes according to this schedule:

Monday, September 19, 2022:

7:30-10:30 p.m.

Zip Codes: 38106, 38109, 38113, 38126, 38116

Route Map: <https://arcg.is/qLvLy1>

Tuesday, September 20, 2022:

7:30-10:30 p.m.

Zip Codes: 38103, 38104, 38105, 38126, 38106, 38114, 38132

Route Map: <https://arcg.is/09Pnvf0>

Wednesday, September 21, 2022:

7:30-10:30 p.m.

ZIP Codes: 38111, 38152, 38117, 38118

Route Map: <https://arcg.is/1P1Hqq>

Thursday, September 22, 2022:

7:30-10:30 p.m.

ZIP Codes: 38128, 38018, 38120, 38133, 38002

Route Map: <https://arcg.is/05am1X>

Individuals with chronic health problems, including asthma or other lung conditions, may want to remain indoors during spraying. Citizens who **do not** want their residences to be sprayed should contact the Vector Control Program by emailing Vector.Control@shelbycountyttn.gov or calling (901) 222-9715.

* 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 scheduled spray time:

- Rain chance of 65% or greater
- Wind speeds 11mph or greater
- Temperature less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Follow @ShelbyTNHealth on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for the most up-to-date cancelations of any scheduled sprayings.

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