



LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE LENAWEЕ COUNTY

(Adrian, MI) The Lenawee County Health Department is participating in a mosquito surveillance program this summer through grant money awarded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Lenawee County Health Department, Environmental Health division is specifically looking for the mosquitos *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* which are known to carry the Zika Virus. To date, these mosquitoes have not been identified in any surveillance traps in Lenawee County.

What is Lenawee County doing:

- The Lenawee County Health Department has been partnering with local businesses, state agencies, county residents, county agencies and municipalities to establish locations for the placement of mosquito traps. These locations include county parks, City owned properties, campgrounds, residences, local businesses near bodies of water and railroad tracks.
- Setting mosquito traps and collecting mosquitos at five locations 2 trap nights per week throughout the county.
- Mosquitos are collected and then identified by an employee of the Lenawee County Health Department.
- Data such as; species (type) of mosquito, number of each species, sex (male or female), and stage of development (larva, egg) are entered into a data spread sheet and then reported to the MDHHS and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Providing educational materials on mosquito bite prevention.

Adult female mosquitos bite people and animals as mosquitos need the blood to produce eggs. After feeding the mosquito looks for a water source to lay eggs. Female mosquitos will lay eggs in containers that hold water. Eggs will hatch within a few days when covered by water. It takes about 7-10 days for an egg to develop into an adult mosquito.

The mosquitos that spread Zika Virus tend not to travel long distances and tend to bite during the day. They will readily come indoors to bite if window and door screens are not maintained. As summer temperatures rise, mosquitos and the virus develop more quickly so it is important to protect yourself from mosquito bites as the weather warms.

How can you Help Prevent Mosquito Borne Diseases:

- Remove old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles or any water-holding containers from property. (The County is hosting a large tire collection on August 26, 2017. See attached flyer for details.)
- Keep drains, ditches, and culverts free of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Keep roof gutters free of leaves and other debris.

- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use.
- Unused swimming pools should be drained and kept dry during the mosquito season.
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water.
- Change the water in birdbaths and plant pots or drip trays at least once each week.
- Store boats covered or upside down, or remove rainwater weekly.
- Keep grass cut and shrubbery well-trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.
- Make sure ornamental ponds have fish, which will eat mosquito larvae.
- Repair window screens.
- Wear insect repellent. Choose a product with an active ingredient proven safe and effective by the EPA. These ingredients include:
 - DEET (concentrations of 30% or less are safest)
 - Picaridin
 - IR 3535
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus
 - Read and follow all instructions on the label for the repellent you choose.

We will continue to monitor our community throughout the remainder of the 16 week program. We would like to thank our partners for their continued cooperation in this program.

Although these species of mosquito have yet to be found in Michigan, Lenawee County is keeping a close watch!

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