

# NORTHWEST MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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## *Mosquito Update* **September 20, 2011**

### **PRESENT CONTROL STATUS:**

#### *NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL*

Currently, nuisance floodwater mosquito (*Aedes vexans*) numbers in New Jersey Light traps remain very low (zero to single digits). The increasing scarcity of larval infested water throughout the District indicates that diapause has started and significant floodwater mosquito eggs are not likely to hatch in the remainder of the 2011 season in anticipation of the upcoming winter months. 2011 was very similar to 2010 and at this same time nuisance mosquito production had halted.

#### *CULEX MOSQUITOES*

Fewer *Culex* mosquitoes are now being collected in gravid traps. Diapause and approaching hibernation of the adult mosquitoes (*Culex* mosquitoes hibernate as adult mosquitoes whereas the floodwater mosquito passes the winter in the egg stage). This is a gradual process and the adult *Culex* mosquitoes will continue to bite until cooler temperatures prevent flight activity and they hibernate in protected areas.

#### Director Note:

### ***BEWARE OF WARM EVENING TEMPERATURES IN EARLY FALL!***

***Given the high Culex mosquito infection rate during August of 2011 it is certain that some remaining Culex mosquitoes are infected and transmission of West Nile virus to humans is still possible (especially during brief periods of warmer temperatures that increase mosquito biting activity). Areas where infected mosquitoes are being detected are: <http://www.nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2011.htm>***

***All residents of NWMAD are still advised to practice mosquito avoidance and wear repellents (see below) when outdoors. Culex mosquitoes are sneaky, less noticeable; night-time biters compared to the more obvious nuisance floodwater mosquitoes that aggressively blood feed day & night earlier this season. DO NOT let this fool you into thinking mosquitoes are no longer present!***

*Mosquito repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) or effective non-DEET repellents including those containing picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus should be chosen. The biggest mistake residents make when applying insect repellents is not applying it directly to ALL exposed skin areas. Frequently residents only spray the top of their arms or front of the legs thinking they will be protected. In reality, mosquitoes, given enough search time, will find any exposed non-treated area of skin to bite! Additionally, mosquitoes may bite through tight fitted clothing if not treated with repellent (consult label regarding treatment of clothing) or insecticides. Repellent concentrations should be chosen based on the length of time an individual is expected to be outdoors, expected physical activity (sweating may promote repellent removal), and in the case of children; their age. All parents should instruct children on proper insect repellent application and should personally apply repellent to younger children themselves (following label directions).*

## **MOSQUITO VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reports: 17 counties with humans, mosquitoes or birds testing positive for WNV. Thus far 897 WNV positive mosquito batches reported from Illinois (732 from Cook). There are 6 confirmed WNV human cases in Cook County. **Two WNV human cases** have been confirmed in NWMAD territory from Palatine and Arlington Heights.

NWMAD has tested (RAMP) 828 batches of mosquitoes for West Nile Virus. 131 WNV infected batches of mosquitoes have been collected in NWMAD gravid traps to date. Mosquito batches testing positive in the District are posted at the NWMAD website <http://www.nwmadil.com/WNVTEST2011.htm>.

### **ADULTICIDING (Night Spraying Operation):**

Adulticiding is not planned at this time due to unfavorable weather conditions and low mosquito numbers. Night spray operations may continue if virus activity and *Culex* numbers elevate and warmer temperatures are sustained. Schedules of adulticiding may be viewed at: <http://www.nwmadil.com/>. Alternately, a recorded phone message describing our scheduled nighttime spray program can be reached at (847) 537-2306 and pressing "5" on your telephone keypad.

### **REDUCING THE RISK OF MOSQUITO BITES:**

Avoid outdoor activity if possible from dusk to dawn when the mosquitoes bite the most. If you do go out wear light colored protective clothing and insect repellent (always read label warnings and directions). Make sure mosquitoes do not enter homes through unscreened or broken doors or windows. Residents are encouraged not to create mosquito harborage areas. Make sure tall grassy areas are trimmed and other vegetation is cut back. If plants must be watered do so in the morning so the vegetation and soil has a chance to dry making it less attractive to mosquitoes. Empty any containers holding stagnating water like tire casings, tarp covers, birdbaths, flower pots and barrels that may produce mosquitoes. Un-maintained swimming pools may produce thousands of mosquitoes. Call the District to report stagnant water areas that remain wet for more than 7 days. Additional mosquito avoidance/control practices may be found at the District's website: [www.nwmadil.com](http://www.nwmadil.com).

*PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.*

Mike Szyska, Director