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Delaware County Mosquito Spraying in Aston, Brookhaven and Chester Township

Staff from the Delaware County Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program will apply an Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) mosquito treatment the evening of Wednesday, July 18 to portions of Aston, Brookhaven and Chester Township provided that weather and environmental conditions remain suitable for the operation. If weather conditions or other unexpected events delay or cancel the spray operation, a rain date is scheduled for July 19.

The purpose of the sprayings is to control the population of adult mosquitoes and reduce the risk of spreading Mosquito-Borne Viruses throughout the area. Locations are identified as a result of high trap counts and the identification of positive mosquito pools in the area. Residential and recreational areas within the treatment areas will be sprayed to control adult mosquitoes.

Staff from the Delaware County Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program will perform the work using truck mounted spraying equipment with the business license BU10544 visible on the equipment. The product used will be Deltagard applied at a rate of 0.66 ounces per acre. This product is designed to provide effective control of adult mosquitoes. The application material has a very low toxicity profile to mammals and is safe for the environment. Treatment will commence at approximately 8:00p.m. and conclude by 11:00p.m.

Certain mosquito species carry the West Nile Virus, which can cause humans to contract West Nile encephalitis, an infection that can result in an inflammation of the brain. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, residents in areas where virus activity has been identified can be at risk of contracting West Nile encephalitis. There have been no reported cases of the West Nile Virus to humans in Delaware County.

Individuals can take measures to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas, including:

- Dispose of cans, buckets, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar containers that hold water on your property.
- Properly dispose of discarded tires that can collect water. Stagnant water is where most mosquitoes breed.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor recycling containers.
- Clean clogged roof gutters every year, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees tend to plug drains.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.

- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use and remove any water that may collect on pool covers.
- For stagnant pools of water, homeowners can purchase Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) known as “mosquito dunks” at home improvement and other stores. Bti is a naturally-occurring soil bacterium that biodegrades quickly and kills mosquito and blackfly larvae, but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants.

Additionally, these precautions can prevent mosquito bites, particularly for those most at risk:

- Make sure screens fit tightly over doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, particularly when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, or in areas known for having large numbers of mosquitoes.
- When possible, reduce outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk during peak mosquito periods, usually April through October.
- Use insect repellants according to the manufacturer’s instructions. An effective repellant will contain DEET, picaridin or lemon eucalyptus oil. Consult with a pediatrician or family physician for questions about the use of repellant on children, as repellant is not recommended for children under the age of two months.

For more information about West Nile Virus and the state’s surveillance and control program, residents can visit www.westnile.state.pa.us