

# MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

The DPHD mosquito control program collects mosquitoes, identifies mosquito-borne diseases, and implements mosquito population controls to prevent human illness. This allows us to inform and protect residents from mosquito-borne diseases.

## TRAPPING

- Throughout the mosquito season (typically May – October) DPHD collects mosquitoes from 23 traps that are strategically placed around the county to monitor mosquitoes that may pose a risk to residents.
- Mosquitoes are collected and sorted throughout each week and sent to the Ohio Department of Health lab for identification and testing for West Nile virus (WNV).

## SPRAYING

- In response to mosquito breeding grounds, positive traps or a human case of mosquito-borne illness, licensed and trained DPHD staff will respond.
- DPHD only sprays in response to a positive WNV trap or a human case of mosquito-borne illness.
- Treatment varies depending on the environment and the life cycle of the mosquito.



\*Spraying only occurs at night to avoid active resident hours and protect honeybees that are only active during the day. Bodies of water, registered apiaries (beehives) and documented no-spray residences are not sprayed.

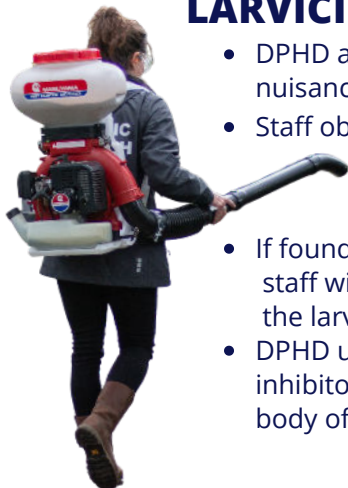
Any resident who does not want their property sprayed may call (740) 368-1700 and request to be placed on the no-spray list.

## DPHD shares spraying notification and information with the affected city, township and village residents and leaders by:

- Issuing press release to local media and through DPHD social media platforms.
- Updating map on DelawareHealth.org that highlights the exact spraying area.
- Posting signs at intersections to notify affected residents of upcoming spraying.
- Some instances include canvassing door-to-door in the event of a human mosquito-borne disease to distribute prevention information & notify residents of upcoming spraying.

## LARVICIDING

- DPHD also receives and responds to mosquito nuisance complaints.
- Staff obtain permission from the property owner to perform on-site assessments, looking for mosquito breeding habitats (standing water, vegetation, mosquito larvae).
- If found that mosquitoes are breeding in the habitat, staff will treat the area with larvicide, which prevents the larvae from growing into adults.
- DPHD uses two different types of larvicides: growth inhibitors and bacterial controls. Each depends on the body of water size, water flow and environment type.



While a positive trap triggers DPHD to spray an area, residents should always be aware that WNV may already be in their area & protect themselves appropriately:



Use an EPA-registered insect repellent.



Wear light-colored, long-sleeved clothing when possible.



Use air conditioning or window & door screens. Make sure to patch any holes in screens.



Prevent mosquitoes from breeding by emptying containers that hold water every 3-4 days.



Treat rain barrels with larvicide or empty every 3-4 days.



For questions, complaints and larvicide requests contact:  
DPHD Environmental Health Division  
mosquito@delawarehealth.org | (740) 368-1700



DelawareHealth.org