



Jackson County Health Department

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Creating Healthy Communities



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Mosquito-Borne Virus Prevention Information for July

News Release From: **Jackson County Health Department**

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JACKSON COUNTY, Mich. –The Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) is encouraging all residents of Jackson County to take precautions when spending time outside to help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne viruses. With the recent hot weather and heavy rainfall, it is no secret that mosquito season is now in full swing just in time for family vacations.

Michigan and Jackson County have had previous outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses in the past which have included Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), and other Arboviruses. Heartworm, caused by a mosquito-spread parasite, is becoming more common in Michigan now. In 2019, Michigan experienced the worse outbreak of EEE since the early 1980's resulting in aerial spraying of a natural insecticide across large areas of southern Michigan, including Jackson County. 2020 also had a higher than average number of horse and human cases of EEE and aerial spraying was conducted again in response.

As in previous years, JCHD is conducting surveillance for mosquito borne disease in 2021 by trapping mosquitos at various sites around Jackson. As part of a Michigan Department of

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Working together to create and promote a healthy community through
disease prevention and control,
health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.

Health and Human Services (MDHHS) grant initiative, JCHD and other local health departments in southern Michigan are searching for two species of mosquitos that transmit Zika Virus. At this point in time, the two targeted Aedes species of mosquito (Aedes albopictus and Aedes aegypti) have not been found naturally in Michigan. Ticks are also being collected to determine the migration pattern of the Black Legged Tick which is responsible for Lyme Disease. Bog environments are being monitored for EEE activity.

It is very important to seek medical evaluation and treatment if you suspect you are experiencing symptoms of any mosquito-borne virus disease and have been exposed to mosquito bites.

The Environmental Health Division encourages everyone to be aware of their surroundings when outside during the summer. Whether walking/hiking in the woods, gardening, barbecuing or camping, many people become exposed to insects that fly, crawl or catch a ride in loose articles of clothing. Many of these insect may be carrying disease that are harmful to humans and pets if left untreated.

Key items that all residents can do to reduce their risk of mosquito borne diseases are:

- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when hiking/walking in areas woods or shrubs
- Repair any screens on your windows or use air conditioning
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered repellants containing DEET or Picaridin
- Protecting your babies and children by:
 - Dressing them in clothing that completely covers arms and legs
 - Using mosquito netting to cover strollers and baby carriers
- Once a week, empty, cover, turn over, or throw out anything that holds standing water

For more information on some common insects in Michigan, click on the links below:

[Ticks](#)

[Mosquitos](#)

[Rabies Carrying Animals](#)

[MI Disease Vector Mapper](#)

[Michigan Emerging Diseases](#)

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides a list of recommendations on their website (<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>) that provide additional details in the three main areas of Avoidance, Repellant Use and Habitat Control.