



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, September 13, 2016
(347) 396-4177

HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT SECOND TRUCK-MOUNTED LARVICIDE TREATMENT IN STATEN ISLAND TO REDUCE RISK OF ZIKA AND WEST NILE VIRUSES

Larviciding will take place in parts of Westerleigh

There is no local transmission of Zika virus via Mosquito in New York City at this time

September 13, 2016 – To reduce mosquito activity and the risk of Zika and West Nile viruses, the Health Department will conduct its second truck-mounted larvicide treatment to parts of Westerleigh in Staten Island on **Thursday, September 15 between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following morning**, weather permitting. In case of bad weather, application will be delayed until Monday, September 19 during the same hours.

The first citywide aerial larvicide treatment occurred May 12, 13, and 14th, the second treatment took place from June 9 to June 11th, the third session was from June 24 to June 26th, the fourth occurred the first week of July, the fifth larviciding session occurred from July 26 to July 28th, the sixth was from August 8 to August 10th, and the last was conducted from September 6 to September 8th. Last year, the Health Department conducted a total of three larvicide events over three months. The Health Department monitors mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus and could carry the Zika virus, and applies pesticides to their breeding grounds when appropriate throughout the summer. During warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any still water standing for more than four days. In the targeted areas, existing hot and wet weather conditions are predicted to escalate a rise in mosquito populations.

The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate any standing water. New Yorkers are also encouraged to mosquito-proof their homes and take precautions when spending time outdoors.

“While we do not expect to find Zika in New York City’s mosquitoes, we are taking no chances. We are moving forward with a safe but aggressive plan to spray pesticide when we find significant numbers of mosquitoes that could possibly carry Zika,” said **Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett**. “New Yorkers should continue to enjoy outdoor activities this summer while taking the usual precautions against mosquitoes, including wearing repellent and reporting standing water to 311.”

Location of Application in Staten Island

Neighborhoods	Boundaries	Zip Codes
Part of Westerleigh	Bordered by College Avenue to the North; Manor Road to the East; Staten Island Expressway to the South; and Woolley Avenue to the West.	Parts of 10314

The Health Department will use naturally occurring and environmentally friendly larvicides to kill infant mosquito eggs before they grow into adults. VectoBac® WDG – containing naturally occurring bacteria and an insect growth regulator – will be used for this application. These products are approved by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and will be used on mosquito-breeding sites throughout the mosquito season.

The Health Department recommends that people **take the following precautions to minimize direct exposure:**

- Whenever possible, stay indoors during spraying. People with asthma or other respiratory conditions are encouraged to stay inside during spraying since direct exposure could worsen these conditions.
- Air conditioners may remain on. However, if you wish to reduce the possibility of indoor exposure to pesticides, set the air conditioner vent to the closed position, or choose the re-circulate function.
- Remove children's toys, outdoor equipment, and clothes from outdoor areas during spraying. If outdoor equipment and toys are exposed to pesticides, wash them with soap and water before using again.
- Wash skin and clothing exposed to pesticides with soap and water. Always wash your produce thoroughly with water before cooking or eating.

Reducing Exposure to Mosquitoes

- Consider limiting time outdoors between dusk and dawn in areas with significant mosquito infestations.
- Wear protective clothing when outdoors, and use an approved insect repellent containing picaridin, DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus (not for children under three), or products that contain the active ingredient IR3535.
- Make sure windows have screens and repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate any standing water from your property and dispose of containers that can collect water. Standing water is a violation of the New York City Health Code.
- Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Keep them empty or covered if not in use; drain water that collects in pool covers.
- Report standing water by calling **311** or visiting nyc.gov.

Maps Depicting Specific Areas for Pesticide Application

**Planned Spray Areas
In Staten Island, September 15, 2016
NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene**



This map, and the application area it depicts, is an approximation and should not be relied on as a specific description of the area to be treated.



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