

MEMO

Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project

www.cmmcp.org



TO: CMMCP Member Boards of Health
FROM: Timothy Deschamps, Executive Director
RE: Enhancements to the CMMCP mosquito surveillance program
DATE: June 30, 2016

ZIKA VIRUS, MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE & ABANDONED SWIMMING POOLS

We have all heard by now about the Zika virus, and Massachusetts has identified several travel-associated cases to date. But there has been no local transmission, and Mass. Public Health states that local transmission is “unlikely” at this time. In the endemic areas Zika has been found, 2 species of mosquito are currently implicated in transmission: *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*.

Ae. aegypti is not found in Massachusetts, and *Ae. albopictus* has only been found in a few locations. In New Bedford both eggs and adults have been found the past few seasons, and single collections of eggs were identified in our area last year in Worcester and Littleton. CMMCP has been actively trapping for this species the past several years, and we have added additional traps to monitor for this species, as well as augmenting our mosquito surveillance by adding ovitraps* to our program. Egg collections are brought to our office and eggs are counted, and then these collections are sent into the MDPH lab for rearing. If *Ae. albopictus* is identified, then surveillance will be intensified in the surrounding areas.

We have also been treating abandoned or unopened swimming pools. These areas can become excellent larval mosquito habitat, and we have a specific program to reduce their emergence by using long term, slow release bacterial products. Please notify our office of these areas by phone, fax or e-mail. Residents can contact us directly, and any application we perform will not harm the pool if there are plans to open it in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at any time with concerns or questions about mosquito control, mosquito-borne diseases or the products and procedures we utilize to reduce risk from mosquitoes.

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*Special cups called “ovitraps” are placed in areas to collect container species. The cups have water inside about halfway up, and are lined with seed germination paper to give the female mosquito a substrate to lay her eggs upon.