



For Immediate Release

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Town of East Hartford Safe from West Nile Virus

(September 15, 2015) **East Hartford, CT** – With the announcement of two confirmed cases of West Nile Virus Infection in two individuals in Bridgeport, Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc wanted to remind all residents that although there have been mosquitoes that have tested positive for West Nile Virus in surrounding capture stations in Glastonbury, Wethersfield and Hartford, there have been no cases of humans testing positive for the virus in East Hartford and that the town’s mosquito abatement program is still ongoing.

Since 2005, the State of Connecticut has seen only two deaths and none since 2007. Mayor Leclerc, since taking office in 2011 has continually allotted significant funds towards the town’s mosquito abatement program, in an effort to keep the residents of East Hartford healthy and safe.

“Reducing the risk of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases in our community is an important public health issue,” Mayor Leclerc said. “Until the first hard frost of the season hits, we will continue to monitor the situation and spray throughout key public property in town.”

As of September 15, 2015, Innovative Mosquito Management, the company the town contracts with, has treated all of the towns parks, selected streets, North Meadows and Keeney Cove areas with nearly 7,700 pounds of larvicide, in addition to spraying adulticide from backpacks and applying fog and spray buffers on state and town-owned watercourse and wetland properties that abut neighborhoods and local parks.

While the mosquito season may be nearing its end, Mayor Leclerc wanted to remind residents that until the first hard frost hits East Hartford, the mosquito season is still in progress.

As in the past, the town will continue to do their part to address the pesky mosquitos throughout the fall, with applications being performed regularly. Residents can also take steps to alleviate mosquitos on their property. The most effective way to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood is to find and eliminate the breeding sites - standing water. A neglected bird bath, swimming pool, base of flower pots or a clogged rain gutter can produce hundreds and hundreds of new mosquitoes in a just a few days. Trees uprooted by storms leave soil depressions that collect seepage and rainwater.

The Town of East Hartford sells “Mosquito Dunks,” which are sold for \$3 for a pack of 3 in the Health Department. Typically, one donut-shaped dunk can be placed in standing water where it will break down slowly when wet and will release insecticide over a 30 day period alleviating the breeding of new mosquitos.

Resident feedback is an important part of the process and we welcome any information you can provide that will enable us to pinpoint the most crucial areas. Should you require additional information, have questions or concerns; feel free to contact the Mayor’s Office office at 860-291-7200 or the Health Department at 860-291-7324.

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