



SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mosquito Control Activities Scheduled for Week of July 15, 2019

MEMPHIS, TN – The Shelby County Health Department’s Mosquito Control Program routinely traps and tests mosquitoes for the presence of West Nile virus (WNV). Mosquitoes positive for the West Nile Virus were identified in the following zip codes last week, the week of July 7, 2019: 38118, 38115, 38104, 38133.

Since February, the Shelby County Health Department’s Mosquito Control Program has treated areas by applying larvicides to standing bodies of water. These actions are consistent with efforts to be proactive in decreasing the adult mosquito population. Larviciding is the practice of applying an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insecticide to areas where mosquito breeding has been confirmed. It is the most effective way of eliminating mosquito populations.

Controlling mosquito populations that may harbor the West Nile virus is important because humans can contract WNV through an infected mosquito’s bite. Although WNV can occasionally cause severe disease, most human infections are mild, resulting in fever, headache and body aches lasting only a few days. Symptoms of severe disease include a high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma or convulsions. Individuals over age 50 and those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk of severe disease. They should especially be careful to avoid mosquito bites.

As an additional precaution, SCHD will conduct mosquito control activities, including truck-mounted spraying (adulticiding) of EPA-approved insecticides, **weather permitting***, in specific ZIP codes where the West Nile virus has been detected, and portions of adjoining zip codes, according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, July 16th

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

ZIP Codes: 38104, 38107, 38108, 38111, 38112, 38114, 38122

Wednesday, July 17th

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

ZIP Codes: 38016, 38018, 38133, 38134, 38135

Thursday, July 18th

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

ZIP Codes: 38016, 38111, 38117, 38122, 38133, 38152

Go to www.shelbytnhealth.com to view the most current schedule and the exact boundaries of each scheduled spray. New maps will be added weekly to reflect updated schedules.

Truck mounted spraying only effectively kills adult mosquitoes currently flying at the time the insecticide is sprayed. Because of this, residents are highly encouraged to be vigilant as it relates to controlling mosquito populations around their homes and businesses and preventing mosquito bites. Individuals are encouraged to practice the **4 D's**:

- **DEFEND** yourself by using insect repellent with DEET. Follow label instructions.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants. Wear loose and light colored clothing when outdoors.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is the time when mosquitoes are most active. Stay indoors.
- **DRAIN** standing water and install or repair window screens.

Individuals with chronic health problems such as asthma or other lung conditions may want to remain indoors during the time of spraying. Citizens who **do not** want their residences to be sprayed should contact the Vector Control Program at **(901) 222-9715**.

* To ensure the insecticide is most effective, the scheduled spraying will be canceled if any of the following weather conditions are present for the majority of the schedule spray time:

- Rain chance of 65% or greater
- Wind speeds 11mph or greater
- Temperature less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit

Follow @ShelbyTNHealth on Twitter and Facebook for the most up-to-date cancelations of any scheduled sprayings.