

**City Health Department to Spray Insecticide Wednesday to Protect residents from mosquito transmitted illness**  
**First case of West Nile Virus reported in Chicago resident for 2016**

Chicago - The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is continuing its efforts against West Nile virus. Based on results from its citywide mosquito surveillance program, CDPH has determined the need to spray to kill adult mosquitoes this week. On Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, spraying will occur in parts of **Rogers Park, West Ridge, Edgewater and Lincoln Square** on the North Side. Last week, CDPH received a report of the first case of West Nile Virus in Chicago resident. The individual, who is elderly, has since recovered.

“We take action throughout the summer to protect residents from mosquitoes, but this case serves as a reminder of the simple steps residents can take to help protect themselves,” said CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, M.D. “By working together we can help ensure a safe and healthy summer for everyone.”

In addition to the city's aggressive mosquito abatement and prevention efforts, CDPH continues to remind residents to take simple precautions to protect themselves against mosquitoes that may carry the virus, including:

- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Eliminate standing water. This includes emptying water from flowerpots, gutters, pool covers, pet water dishes and birdbaths regularly.
- Keep grass and weeds short to eliminate hiding places for adult mosquitoes.
- When outside between dusk and dawn, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirts, socks and shoes.
- Check that all screens, windows and doors are tight-fitting and free of holes and tears.
- Check on neighbors regularly who may need additional assistance, including the elderly.

Weather permitting, the spraying will begin at dusk and continue through the night until approximately 1:00am, with licensed mosquito abatement technicians in trucks dispensing an ultra-low-volume spray. Each year, CDPH conducts a comprehensive mosquito surveillance, prevention and control program to protect residents from West Nile virus and other diseases spread by mosquitoes. In 2016, CDPH previously sprayed in the following neighborhoods:

- Albany Park (8/9)
- Ashburn (8/10)
- Auburn Gresham (8/2)
- Chatham (8/2)
- Chicago Lawn (8/10 and 8/17)
- Dunning (8/16)
- East Garfield Park (8/17)
- Jefferson Park (8/16)
- Forest Glen (8/9)
- Gage Park (8/10)
- Humboldt Park (8/17)

- New City (8/10)
- North Park (8/9)
- Norwood Park (8/9 and 8/16)
- Portage Park (8/16)
- Washington Heights (8/2)
- West Englewood (8/10)
- West Garfield Park (8/17)
- West Lawn (8/10 and 8/17)

Though mosquitoes found to carry the Zika virus are not native to Chicago, CDPH has launched a recent campaign, #StopZika, to educate residents traveling to Zika-infested regions how to protect themselves. The campaign also reminds residents how the department is working to prevent mosquito-borne viruses that are endemic to Chicago, including West Nile virus. In addition to spraying, CDPH's comprehensive mosquito abatement program includes dropping larvicide in catch basins, which helps limit the number of mosquitoes that can carry the virus, and regularly testing mosquitoes caught in traps throughout the city. By utilizing data the city is able to most efficiently target high-risk areas for the virus.

The material being used to control the adult mosquitoes, Zenivex™, is approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has been widely applied to control mosquitoes in outdoor residential and recreational areas across the city. The spray will be applied by licensed mosquito abatement technicians from Vector Disease Control International, a leader in the mosquito control industry. Guiding the crews through the streets will be supervisors from the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation.

While the spray is not harmful to people or pets and is routinely sprayed in residential areas across the nation, residents of targeted neighborhoods may choose to stay indoors and close their windows while spraying is underway, as an extra precaution.

“Spraying to kill adult mosquitoes is an effective component of an integrated pest management program,” added CDPH Environmental Health Medical Director Cort Lohff, M.D. “It is our expectation that this effort will further limit the mosquito population and prevent cases of human illness in Chicago.”

As part of ongoing response efforts, CDPH will continue to collect mosquitoes from traps located throughout the city and test these mosquitoes for West Nile virus. Using results of these tests, CDPH will determine the appropriate steps to be taken in order to best protect Chicago residents. West Nile virus cannot be transmitted from person-to-person. Instead, it is transmitted strictly through mosquitoes. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus. Additional information on the virus, including symptoms and how to protect against the virus can be found here. Additional information regarding the Zika virus can be found at [www.cityofchicago.org/StopZika](http://www.cityofchicago.org/StopZika).