

June 11, 2018

MCHD to begin spraying for mosquitoes

MOBILE, Alabama — The Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) has mosquito traps placed throughout the county to help determine the correct moment to begin night-time spraying to deal with the irritating insects. After reviewing recent samples, Vector Control’s Jerry Folsie said the MCHD trucks will begin their routes throughout Mobile and the county tonight, weather permitting.

MCHD provides a comprehensive program through its Vector Control department. This includes mosquito surveillance, disease surveillance, public health education, larviciding (larvae control), and adulticiding (adult mosquito control) to track, monitor and control mosquitoes. Vector Control also assesses the potential for mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) through its sentinel chicken program. The chicks will be placed in 13 strategically located coops throughout the county once they reach maturity.

Spraying schedules are set to cover the established 50 different spray routes across Mobile County. Vector Control is rotating first- and second-generation chemical insecticides and organophosphates so that no tolerance is built up in the mosquito population.

MCHD has an airplane — a Cessna 182Q — that will spray insecticides along coastal areas and in other places that are inaccessible by truck. Final calibrations are needed before it is put into service this summer. Folsie said the plane will be used when there are large hatchings of saltwater mosquitoes, which are different from the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito that is the main disease-carrying mosquito. The saltwater mosquito is more of a nuisance, but it can also carry disease.

While Vector Control works all year to control the local mosquito population, residents also must play a role. “The public is asked to partner with us by checking their own properties and emptying out anything that they have that can hold water and leaving it overturned to prevent future mosquito breeding,” Folsie said.

To learn more about the battle to control mosquitoes, please visit <http://mchd.org>. Under the “Services” tab find “Vector Control” and then “Mosquito Control – General Information.” A mosquito complaint may be submitted to Vector Control by calling 251-690-8124 or via email at VectorServices@mchd.org.