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CARLOS RIVERA
Director

HARTFORD TO START LARVICIDE TREATMENT

(June 18, 2010) – The City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services today announced that, as part of the Mosquito Management Initiative, catch basins and wetland areas in the city will be treated with larvicide to control larval mosquitoes in water habitats. Larviciding is the most efficient and effective method of managing mosquitoes because larvae are concentrated in relatively small, well-defined, habitats. The larvicide used is safe to the environment and does not pose any adverse threat when used in accordance with the label. In addition, adulticide barrier will be set up at certain park locations to control adult mosquito population.

“This is the time of year for peak exposure risk to West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes. It is important for residents to be aware of the risk of WNV infection and to recognize the importance of taking recommended personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites and of taking measures to reduce mosquito-breeding areas near their homes,” stated Carlos Rivera, Director.

We are recommending that residents take the following personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and windows screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions.
- When using DEET (the most widely used insect repellent) on children, use a product containing less than 10% DEET and wash treated skin after returning indoors.

You can also reduce mosquitoes around your home with the following measures:

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, tire swings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools.
- Use landscaping techniques to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

For more information about protecting your family from WNV, visit:

CT Department of Public Health Website at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us>
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Website at <http://www.caes.state.ct.us>
CT Department of Environmental Protection Website at <http://dep.state.ct.us>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website at <http://www.cdc.gov>

