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HARTFORD IMPLEMENTS MEASURES TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO WEST NILE VIRUS Hartford to Start Larvicide Treatment

NEWS RELEASE

(July 23, 2009) – 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 kill the mosquito eggs. This technique is the most efficient and effective method of managing mosquitoes because larvae are concentrated in relatively small, well-defined, aquatic habitats. The larvicide used is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection. It is safe to the environment and does not pose any adverse threat when used properly.

This is the time of year for peak risk exposure to West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes. It is important for residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and of taking measures to reduce mosquito-breeding areas near their homes.

The following personal protection precautions are recommended 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.

To reduce mosquitoes around your home:

- 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, and when not in use, pool covers.
- Use landscaping techniques to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

Resources for Additional Information:

Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, (860) 543-8800 or www.hartford.gov/Human_services
CT Department of Public Health, (860) 509-7994 and Website at www.dph.state.ct.us
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Website at www.caes.state.ct.us
CT Department of Environmental Protection Website at dep.state.ct.us
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website at www.cdc.gov

