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Health Department Treating Catch Basins to Combat Mosquito Breeding

Curbing Mosquito Population Cuts Risk of West Nile Virus

PITTSBURGH - The Allegheny County Health Department will be treating storm water catch basins in selected areas of Pittsburgh with pesticides to combat the breeding of mosquitos that can be a nuisance and potentially spread diseases such as the West Nile virus.

Any catch basin that holds water is a breeding ground for mosquitos during the heat of summer. Treatment with pesticides can keep mosquito larvae from emerging into full-fledged adults capable of spreading disease to humans.

The pesticides, which are non-toxic to people, pets and aquatic life, inhibit mosquito breeding and are deposited manually in catch basins. Treated basins are marked with a bright green paint.

The Health Department is treating about 8,000 catch basins in certain areas of Pittsburgh, including eastern and western wards as well as wards on the North Side and South Side, which have a history in previous years of West Nile activity.

The treatments will start Monday, June 6 and will continue through Friday, June 10, from 4 to 9 p.m., but may be postponed when heavy rains are forecast.

Health officials say residents can also help reduce the mosquito population by eliminating and treating breeding sites on their own private property. Breeding sites include stagnant water in tires, unused swimming pools, buckets, clogged gutters, etc. Mosquitos can breed in as little as ½ inch

deep stagnant water. Also, inexpensive but effective pesticides similar to what the Health Department uses are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.

To report a property that has potential breeding sites for mosquitos, contact the Health Department at 412-687-2243.

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