

Mosquito Control Update **July 28, 2015**

Over the past couple of weeks, an additional 23 mosquito pools have returned positive for West Nile virus (WNV). All of the pools were from the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*. The mosquitoes were all collected from the Slidell area, with most from the western edge of greater Slidell. The total number of positive mosquito pools now stands at 39 out of 1836 tested. Residents should take precautions to protect themselves by using a mosquito repellent that contains DEET when going in mosquito prone areas. The southern house mosquito is most active late at night, It rarely will bite during the daytime. Residents should take precaution to keep doors closed as much as possible, because the southern house mosquito will readily fly indoors.

Increased control efforts have been directed in the areas of the positive mosquito pools, which includes aerial and ground ULV spraying and larviciding of the roadside ditches where the southern house mosquito breeds. Mosquito inspection data from larval counts, light traps and gravid traps indicate that population levels have decreased and are relatively low. In the past two weeks, a total of 143,360 acres have been aurally sprayed to reduce populations of the southern house mosquito. The areas included Covington, Mandeville, Madisonville, Lacombe and special emphasis on Slidell. Truck mounted sprayers treated locations throughout the Parish.

The Asian tiger mosquito, another species capable of transmitting WNV, has increased over the past few weeks. This species breeds in artificial containers. The most effective way to reduce populations of this mosquito is by storing containers such as cans, vases, buckets, tires, wheel barrows, etc so they will not collect water.