

Mosquito Control Update **March 24, 2016**

Recent rainfall over the past two and a half weeks has stimulated the hatch of floodwater mosquitoes. The predominate species is *Aedes vexans*, the inland floodwater mosquito. Because there were at least two rain events that occurred over the period of several days, the mosquito larvae were in various stages of development. Since the rainfall was widespread, most areas of the parish were affected. Even though the mosquito breeding was widespread, the population levels, based on the larval samples and light trap and landing rate counts, are moderate to low at best. So far, landing rates in some of the affected areas are in the low single digit counts, which is fairly low. The locations most affected were Covington, Mandeville, Hickory and other 6th Ward areas, and Slidell. We continue to monitor and conduct surveillance of larval and adult mosquitoes, however so far no adulticide measures have been needed. Part of the reason that control intervention against the adults has not been needed is due to the unusually cool temperatures, especially at night when applications are typically conducted. It is expected that when temperatures warm on a consistent basis, adult mosquito populations will increase and intervention by aerial and ground treatments will be employed.

Larvicide of the roadside ditches for the control of the southern house mosquito has been ongoing daily since the beginning of February. Control results have been very good, and population levels based on larval surveillance, gravid trap and host seeking trap collections have been very low. The southern house mosquito will continue to be closely monitored since it is the primary vector for West Nile virus.

A total of 397 mosquito pools have been tested for the presence of West Nile virus. All samples have returned negative. As a result, the risk for human infection of West Nile virus is very low. Samples were collected throughout the parish. The majority of the samples were the southern house mosquito, however samples of *Culex salinarius*, *Culex erraticus*, *Culex restuans*, and *Aedes vexans* have also been tested.