

Mosquito Control Update September 6, 2013

It appears that we are now on the downside of the West Nile virus activity. Test results for the 220 mosquito pools collected over the past 3 weeks indicated only 4 positive samples. Two of the positive samples were collected from the Covington area, one was collected from the Mandeville area, and one was collected from the Madisonville area. The 220 samples were collected throughout St. Tammany Parish. These test results indicate that the West Nile virus activity in the mosquitoes is at a very low level. There have been no confirmed human cases, since the last reported case which had an onset date of July 29. That case was from a blood donor who had no symptoms of West Nile virus. There was one other case which had an onset date of July 7 which was a mild West Nile virus fever case.

Over the past three weeks, the District has continued to put much emphasis on targeting the control of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the primary vector for West Nile virus. A total of 92,130 acres were aerially sprayed for the control of this mosquito species to help reduce the potential risk for West Nile virus human disease. The areas treated included Mandeville, Covington, Madisonville, Lacombe, Slidell, and Pearl River. In addition, truck mounted sprayers treated the entire parish, with many locations receiving additional treatments to reduce populations of the southern house mosquito. Personnel continue to treat the roadside ditches with the microbial spore, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, as the primary method to control this mosquito species. Population levels have decreased considerably, as evident by the gravid trap collections and the larval index.

Rainfall accumulation in the woodland areas in the 2nd, 5th, and 6th Wards, one to two weeks ago produced a moderate brood of two woodland mosquito species, *Psorophora ferox* and *Aedes atlanticus*. A total of 30,720 acres were aerially treated in the areas of Talisheek, Hickory, St. Tammany and Hillcrest. Other areas were treated by truck mounted sprayers. Very good results were achieved.