

INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release Wednesday, August 4, 2021

24-hour notice – City to commence mosquito control program under provincial order to reduce number of West Nile Virus mosquitoes

Operation will begin weather permitting on Thursday evening in insect management areas located in northwest area of Winnipeg

Winnipeg, MB – In accordance with the ministerial order issued today under The Environment Act by the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg is hereby providing 24 hours' public notice that an adult mosquito control program for West Nile Virus will commence on Thursday, August 5 at 10:00 p.m.

Subject to weather conditions, the program will begin in Winnipeg in the <u>insect</u> <u>management areas</u> of 43 (North Inkster Industrial, Oakpoint Highway, Omand's Creek Industrial, Tyndall Park), 44 (Burrows - Keewatin, Inkster Industrial Park, Mynarski, Pacific Industrial, Shaughnessy Park, Weston, Weston Shops), 48 (Inkster Gardens, Mandalay West, The Maples), 49 (Garden City, Leila - McPhillips Triangle, Margaret Park, Templeton – Sinclair), and 51 (Amber Trails, Leila North, Riverbend, Rivergrove, Rosser - Old Kildonan, West Kildonan Industrial).. The issuance of the provincial order means that buffer zones will no longer be in effect in the entire City of Winnipeg.

Citizens are encouraged to monitor the media or review the current program schedule at <u>City of Winnipeg - West Nile Virus Mosquito Program 2021</u> to stay apprised of the mosquito control operation schedule. The City in consultation with the Province will issue a public service announcement on the day of a mosquito control operation, providing a minimum of eight (8) hours advanced notification, to advise citizens as to where operations will specifically be occurring on that given night, weather permitting. The program will be carried out using DeltaGard 20EW®.

Phone and email notification

The Insect Control Branch offers an automated telephone and email notification system. Residents who register for this service will receive daily phone or email notifications for all adult mosquito control activities. Residents can register for <u>notification online</u> or by <u>contacting 311</u>.

West Nile Virus Program

The delivery of the West Nile Virus Program, which includes the monitoring of Culex tarsalis mosquitoes, and issuing provincial orders for adult mosquito control, is a provincial responsibility. Weekly average trap counts of Culex tarsalis by regional health authority are available on the <u>Province of Manitoba's West Nile virus website</u>.

Citizens are reminded to take personal measures to protect from West Nile Virus:

- You can help reduce mosquito numbers by getting rid of mosquito habitats around your home.
- Reduce the time you spend outdoors between dusk and dawn. The peak mosquito hours are around dusk and dawn, but Culex mosquitoes will also bite during the night.
- Wear light coloured, loose fitting, and long-sleeved tops and long pants when outside, especially between dusk and dawn.
- Apply an appropriate insect repellent, according to Health Canada Guidelines and label instructions. For more information, see the fact sheet <u>Safe use of personal insect repellents</u>.
- Check that door and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please visit the <u>Province of Manitoba's</u> <u>West Nile virus website</u> or call Health Links - Info Santé (204) 788-8200 in Winnipeg or toll-free 1-888-315-9257.

-30-

Media inquiries should be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at 204-986-6000 or via email at <u>MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca</u>

Follow us on Facebook: <u>facebook.com/cityofwinnipeg</u>

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/cityofwinnipeg