



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Mosquito Vector Surveillance in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, MI – Southern Michigan is in the migration pattern of the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito (Asian Tiger Mosquito), a mosquito that can carry the ZIKA virus. Though the mosquito is not currently known to be present in Kalamazoo County, the Health & Community Services Department's Environmental Health Division is working with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Department's (MDHHS) Mosquito Surveillance program.

This summer from May through September, Kalamazoo County Environmental Health staff will be setting several mosquito traps throughout the county to identify any Asian Tiger Mosquitos that may be in our community and assess if they are carrying the ZIKA virus. "Actively trapping and testing mosquitos is an effective way of providing early detection of the spread of the ZIKA virus," says Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Division Chief.

What Kalamazoo County is Doing:

- Setting traps with the purpose of identifying the collected mosquitoes
- Reporting information to the MHDDS and the CDC
- Providing ZIKA prevention education at community events
- Informing the community upon any important findings during our surveillance of any vector-borne diseases

What you can do to Prevent Mosquito Borne Diseases:

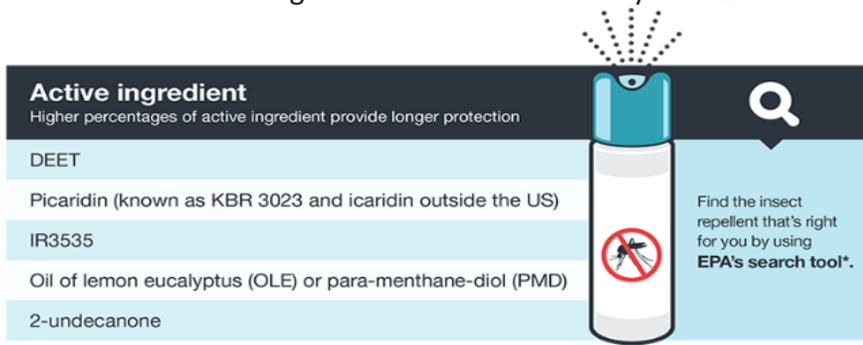
- Empty and wash all containers that collect water (small pools, feeding bowls, open rain collection barrels, buckets, birdbaths, etc.) at least once a week and keep swimming pools properly treated to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.
- Keep trash containers property covered.
- Use screens on your home windows to prevent mosquitoes and other pests from entering.
- Use insect repellent with DEET or lemon-eucalyptus oil on skin and treat clothing with permethrin to repel biting insects. Always follow label directions to keep you and your family safe

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Below is a list of active ingredients recommended by the CDC:



Active ingredient
Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection

DEET
Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the US)
IR3535
Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD)
2-undecanone

Find the insect repellent that's right for you by using **EPA's search tool***.

For further information on what you can do, contact Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department-Environmental Health Division at 269-373-5210.

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