



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Kalamazoo County Conducting Mosquito Surveillance this Summer**

KALAMAZOO, MI — This year from May through September the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department's Environmental Health Division staff will be setting several mosquito traps throughout the county to identify any Asian Tiger Mosquitoes that may be in Kalamazoo County.

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 Environmental Health Division is working closely with the Mosquito Surveillance program at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Department (MDHHS).

The Environmental Health Division will also be partnering with Michigan State University as they perform surveillance for the *Culiseta melanura* mosquito that is known to carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). These mosquitoes will be trapped, identified, and tested for EEE. Reporting on the findings will be shared with our community. Trapping and testing this species of mosquito will offer early EEE surveillance and detection within Kalamazoo County.

"Even as the COVID-19 response remains our top priority, there is still critical public health work, such as mosquito surveillance, that must get done to protect the health and safety of our community this summer," says Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Division Chief. "Actively trapping and identifying mosquitoes is an effective way of providing early detection of the spread of vector borne diseases such as Zika Virus and EEE. Identifying the mosquitoes in our community will help us inform residents about potential diseases carried by those mosquitoes," says Johnson.

What Kalamazoo County is doing:

- Setting traps with the purpose of identifying the collected mosquitoes.
- Reporting information to the MHDDS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Providing ZIKA and EEE disease prevention education at community events.
- Working closely with Michigan State University trapping, collecting, identifying, and testing the mosquitos that can carry EEE.

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**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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- Informing the community upon any important findings during our surveillance of any potential disease carrying vectors.

What Kalamazoo County residents can do to prevent mosquito-borne diseases:

- Empty and wash all outdoor containers that collect water (small pools, feeding bowls, open rain collection barrels, buckets, birdbaths, etc.) at least once a week.
- Keep swimming pools properly treated to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.
- Keep trash containers properly covered.
- Use and repair screens on your home windows.
- Wear tall socks, pants and long sleeves when outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn.
- Use insect repellent with DEET and registered by the EPA on skin and treat clothing with permethrin to repel biting insects. Always follow label directions.

For more information about mosquito and tick surveillance, visit [www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh) or call 269-373-5210.

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

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