



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mosquito Surveillance in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department-Environmental Health Unit is participating in a mosquito surveillance program this summer, specifically looking for the mosquito that has been known to carry the Zika Virus. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services awarded Kalamazoo County a grant for the Zika Virus Mosquito Surveillance and Community support program. Southern Michigan is currently in the plume of potential migration of the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito (Asian Tiger Mosquito), an insect that has been known to carry the ZIKA virus. Although this species has yet to be found in Michigan, Kalamazoo County is keeping a close watch!

What Kalamazoo County is doing:

- Setting mosquito traps and collecting mosquitos at five locations throughout the County from June until September. These locations include rest areas, a hiking trail, a car wash and a location near the airport.
- Identifying the mosquitoes that are caught and reporting that information to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Providing information at community events on mosquito bite prevention, mosquito habitat control, and how to prevent mosquito borne diseases.

Mosquitoes are commonly associated with spreading Zika Virus, West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The warmer summer weather means many residents are spending more time outside participating in outdoor activities. Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Manager said, “Residents should be aware of mosquitos and the issues associated with them in order to be prevent mosquito borne diseases.” Johnson continued, “It’s important for Residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and plan ahead before going outdoors.”

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

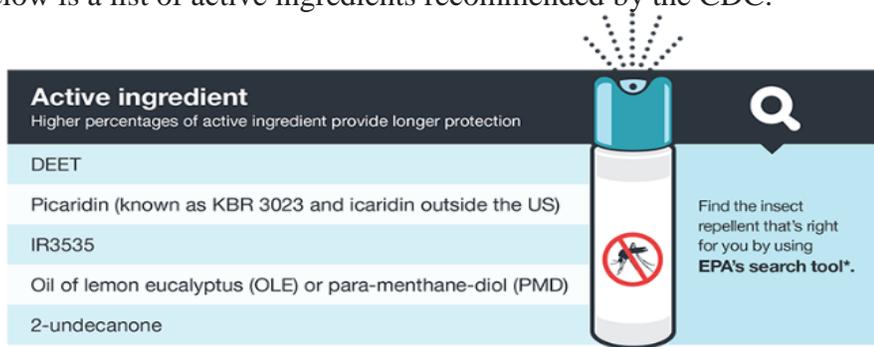
3299 Gull Road | Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Phone: 269.373.5200 | www.kalcounty.com/hcs

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

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



The infographic features a central illustration of a white mosquito repellent bottle with a blue cap and a red prohibition sign over a mosquito. To the left is a table of active ingredients, and to the right is a search icon and a text prompt.

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

Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection

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

For further information on what you can do please contact Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department-Environmental Health Unit at (269) 373-5210.

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