



MONROE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL
MONROE CO. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1 QUAKER PLAZA, ROOM 106
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
570-517-3416

September 13, 2016

Ross Township Municipal Building
258 Anchorage Road
PO Box 276
Saylorsburg, PA 18353

Re: Monroe County Vector Control Zika Program Update

Ross Township Supervisors,

Monroe County has received a grant from PADEP for Zika Virus Education and Surveillance. To initiate a county wide educational program, concise and informative flyers have been made for handout to hospitals and local municipalities. Surveillance has also been initiated within Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Currently we are limiting the surveillance to Stroudsburg and the immediate area, as traps become available, this surveillance to other populated areas across the county will begin.

Over the past month we have found 15+ *Ae. Albopictus* adults in the surveillance trap, which indicates a small breeding population in West Stroudsburg. The first 'catch' contained one adult of this species, control measures were immediately initiated in the surrounding area. Numbers after control measures spiked at 12 in one catch and have since decreased. This site is currently being watched on a weekly basis to keep track of that local population. This population poses no serious threat, however, it does show that this species is able to breed and persist in this area.

As the mosquito season nears an end, work and preparation will continue to expand educational programs for the next season. To start the education process we would like to distribute "Fight the Bite" cards to organizations that have partnered with the Monroe County Vector Control Program. Prevention of mosquito breeding is key in reducing the risk of mosquito borne illness. The West Nile Virus has been present in Pennsylvania for nearly two decades and the species responsible have become controllable when action is taken. The Zika Virus is new and the *albopictus* species is notoriously difficult to control. This makes preventative measures exceptionally important as the Zika Virus is not going away in the near future; and could become a well-established high risk disease if not treated as such.

Regards,

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