



# MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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## **NORTHAMPTON LAUNCHES MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND TREATMENT PLAN**

The City of Northampton Health Department and Vector Disease Control International are working together to develop a mosquito surveillance and treatment plan to provide direction for the prevention of mosquito borne disease and mitigation of mosquito breeding sites. This eight-month program will also create a coordination guide for city departments and agencies in the event of an outbreak.

“We take the potential public health threat posed by virus carrying mosquitoes very seriously,” said Mayor David Narkewicz. “We proactively put this plan in place to ensure that we are prepared and coordinated in the event of an outbreak.”

Adult mosquito populations will be monitored using standard mosquito trapping methods. Mosquitoes collected will be identified as to species to determine diversity and to identify the abundance of possible disease vector species present in the City. In addition to species identification and population distribution, mosquito pools will be tested for West Nile Virus and EEE. Suspected larval breeding sites on City property, such as ditches, swamps, artificial containers, and rainwater pools, will be inspected weekly. Larval surveillance and the City’s historical data will identify primary breeding locations where persistent mosquito production is occurring and limited larvicide treatments will be applied.

“With mosquito diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis endemic to most Massachusetts communities and Zika virus on the horizon, it is important to conduct surveillance to understand the risk of disease to our community,” stated Northampton Public Health Director, Merridith O’Leary.

The Plan will also create a guide for coordination among various departments and identify preparedness and response initiatives to be taken in the city in the event of an outbreak. Response actions during an outbreak rely on the collaboration of several agencies including the Health Department, Department of Public Works, Emergency Management Director, and the State Department of Public Health.

More information on mosquitoes, including what residents can do to help reduce the mosquito population and protect themselves, can be found at <http://northamptonma.gov/1597/Mosquito-Information>