



"Your Local
Health Department"

News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITOES FOUND IN MICHIGAN

On August 25, 2017, officials from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Wayne County Health Department announced the identification of the Asian tiger mosquito in Wayne County. This is the first documentation of this type of mosquito in Michigan. The *Aedes albopictus* species-commonly known as the Asian tiger mosquito- is capable of spreading the Zika virus, officials emphasized that there is no evidence of Zika virus-infected mosquitoes in Michigan or the entire Midwest this year.

Prior to this recent discovery, over 20,000 non-Zika vector mosquitoes had been trapped and identified by local health departments. Efforts to further investigate the spread of the Asian tiger mosquito in Wayne County are already underway. The invasive day-biting mosquito breeds in containers where water collects, such as old tires, gutters and flower pots.

Michigan residents can protect themselves from mosquitoes by:

- Eliminating sources of standing water such as wading pools, old tires, buckets and containers by dumping water to prevent mosquito eggs and larvae from developing into biting adults.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors

- Applying EPA-registered insect repellent according to label directions
- Making sure doors and windows have tight fitting screens.

The Zika virus, which is spread through mosquitoes and particularly through the Aedes species, can be transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy or through unprotected sexual contact. A large outbreak of Zika occurred beginning in 2015 in South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. For more information on the Zika virus, go to mi.gov/Zika or go to www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases for more information. To learn more about services provided by the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency “Your Local Health Department”, visit our website at www.bhsj.org and like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/.