

## **NSMAD Zika Operational Plan**

The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District is taking the following actions in response to the expanded Zika virus activity throughout the [world](#) - including the [Americas](#) - and the associated increase in [travel-related cases returning to the United States](#):

### **Surveillance:**

- We reviewed the District's mosquito collection records for the past 6 years and found no evidence of either the primary mosquito vector of Zika virus, *Aedes aegypti*, or the potential secondary vector species, *Aedes albopictus*, occurring in District. This indicates that there are no established/recurring populations of these mosquito species in our area.
- The NSMAD Vector Biologist, who identifies the mosquitoes collected in during our established surveillance program, is aware of the need to look for these mosquito species in our mosquito trap collections. The Vector Biologist reviewed pictorial keys and reference specimens to assure familiarity with the appearance of the adults of these mosquito species and will provide similar training to NSMAD full time field staff and seasonal interns working in our laboratory.
- We will include a section on identifying these mosquito species during training of our seasonal field staff to assure they are able to recognize these species and their breeding habitats while conducting routine mosquito control activities throughout the District.
- We purchased BG Sentinel traps that are specifically designed to collect these mosquito species and we are able to rapidly deploy them into a particular neighborhood, if we are alerted to either the presence of suspect Zika cases or of the key mosquito species. These will be complemented with on-site surveillance to collect and identify landing mosquitoes.
- We routinely monitor reports and new developments coming out of CDC, IDPH, CCDPH and local health agencies.

### **Control:**

Should populations of the key mosquito vectors be identified in the District, we will move field teams into those neighborhoods to:

- Conduct intensified surveillance to determine the degree of the infestation;
- Identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sources by emptying or removing water-holding containers, and/or treating those sources that cannot be drained or eliminated with a granular, time-release larvicide;
- Focus intensified adult mosquito control efforts (ULV spraying and/or barrier applications) in areas where the potential vector species are found.

### **Public Education:**

- The Zika virus informational message on the front page of our website ([www.nsmad.com](http://www.nsmad.com)) will be updated as the situation warrants.
- NSMAD informational brochures and door hangers describing personal protection measures and how residents can reduce mosquito breeding on their property by removing or emptying containers are available for distribution to residents directly by NSMAD staff and through other local government offices.

- We provide important information and alerts to residents through email and SMS messaging via our GovDelivery subscription service. Residents can sign up for their preferred contact method on the front page of our website, [www.nsmad.com](http://www.nsmad.com).
- Press releases regarding our actions will be disseminated to local media.

**Situation Assessment:**

The available scientific evidence indicates that Zika virus outbreaks are driven by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and potentially by *Aedes albopictus*. As long as these mosquito species do not occur in the District, there is no likelihood that a travel-related introduction of the virus in the area will result in local mosquito-borne transmission of the Zika virus. That situation could change if there is a seasonal introduction and establishment of a population of one of these species, which we would respond to as described above.