



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, July 25, 2007

ADULT NUISANCE MOSQUITO FOGGING PROGRAM TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME - EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007

Winnipeg, MB – The city-wide Adulticiding Factor Analysis (AFA) rating has now moved from high to medium, based on an analysis of the trends of the AFA factors over the past week, which includes trap counts. The city-wide average trap count for today, July 25, 2007 is 20. Therefore, the City will be temporarily suspending its Adult Nuisance Mosquito Fogging program at this time, effective today, Wednesday, July, 25, 2007.

Since June 23rd, the Insect Control Branch has been fogging throughout Winnipeg, prioritizing first for areas with highest mosquito populations. The AFA has now returned to medium, meaning that:

- mosquito populations have declined throughout the city;
- the remaining adult mosquito population is older and dying off;
- larval sites are showing low levels of larval development;
- no significant rainfall is forecasted/current larval sites continue to dry up.

The Adulticiding Factor Analysis Guidelines (AFA) is based on a combination of key environmental factors that are used to determine whether or not conditions are conducive to continued mosquito emergence, including trap counts. Information on current AFA factors is available on the Insect Control Branch Website at winnipeg.ca/bugline.

All factors of the AFA will continue to be monitored on a daily basis. Should the AFA rating return to high the Adult Nuisance Mosquito fogging program, for the entire city, will resume. An 8 hour public notice will be issued prior to resuming the Adult Nuisance Mosquito Fogging Program. Fogging would be carried out in the entire city (buffer zones respected), continuing to prioritize first for areas with highest nuisance mosquito populations. Daily public service announcements would be issued providing a minimum of eight hours advanced notification to advise citizens as to where fogging operations would specifically be occurring on that given night, weather permitting. These announcements would also continue to be available on the Insect Control Website at winnipeg.ca/bugline.

The City of Winnipeg still remains under a Provincial Health Order for West Nile Virus Adult Mosquito Control. The Province of Manitoba is continuing to monitor their WNV surveillance information on an ongoing basis within Winnipeg. At this time the Province has indicated that additional WNV fogging is also not required within Winnipeg. If, and when, they determine that the risk to human health warrants further fogging under the WNV program, the City of Winnipeg will issue a Public Service Announcement, providing

a minimum of eight (8) hours advanced notification, to advise citizens as to when and where West Nile Virus fogging operations will specifically be occurring on that given night. This information is also available by calling the Bugline at 986-3210 or by visiting the website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

The delivery of the West Nile Virus Program, which includes the monitoring of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes is a provincial responsibility. Weekly average trap counts of *Culex tarsalis* by regional health authority are available on the Province of Manitoba's West Nile virus website at Gov.mb.ca/health/wnv.

Citizens are also reminded to take personal protection measures by:

- Reducing the time you spend outdoors between dusk and dawn. Peak mosquito activity is around dusk and dawn.
- Wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting, long-sleeved tops and long pants when outside, especially between dusk and dawn.
- Applying insect repellent containing DEET, according to Health Canada Guidelines. (DEET is not recommended for children under the age of 6 months).
- Checking that door and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes

For additional information on West Nile virus and personal protection measures, please visit Gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/intro.html#protect.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at (204) 986-6000 or via email at mediainquiry@winnipeg.ca