



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

August 10, 2016

Dear Municipal Supervisor/Administrator,

This letter is to inform you of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) efforts underway this year for mosquito surveillance and how your community may be asked to participate.

In July 2016, the New York State Department of Health initiated mosquito surveillance efforts across the southern region of the state. The purpose is to identify the range of a particular mosquito species (the Asian Tiger Mosquito (ATM) or *Aedes albopictus*) known to carry certain exotic infections in other parts of the world. This mosquito has been prevalent in Suffolk and Nassau Counties and NYC, and seasonally present as far north as Putnam County.

The ATM can transmit local viruses like West Nile virus, and exotic infections like Dengue fever and Chikungunya virus. It is also a possible vector for Zika virus, which has received a lot of media attention due to outbreaks in places like Puerto Rico and Brazil.

This year's study involves mosquito trap placement to collect and identify mosquitoes in Dutchess County. It is expected to be a multi-year effort; this year, surveillance will be conducted into autumn. These surveillance efforts are being facilitated by NYSDOH student interns, who monitor the traps daily. Traps will typically be moved to a new location every 3-5 days.

At this time, we are seeking to station traps across cities and towns of Dutchess County. These mosquitoes prefer to breed in small areas of standing water, which accumulates in things such as tires, clogged gutters, and pool covers, so both urban and suburban areas are ideal for trap placement. In addition to the surveillance efforts, informational literature will be provided to municipalities. Mosquito Dunks will also be available, in limited quantities, for distribution to residents to help control mosquito populations.

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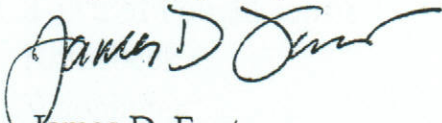
www.dutchessny.gov

Please be advised your administration may be contacted shortly, or already has been contacted, by one of the NYSDOH student interns regarding initiating mosquito surveillance efforts in your jurisdiction including permission to place mosquito traps as well as input for possible placement locations. Your consideration in helping with our efforts is greatly appreciated.

It is important to note that the surveying efforts are part of a larger program being conducted by the NYSDOH. The likelihood of finding ATMs in Dutchess County is low, and slimmer yet are the chances of finding ATMs infected with exotic disease agents. The surveillance program will help the NYSDOH collect more information about mosquitoes in this area of the State, which is vital to preventing arthropod-borne illnesses.

If you have any additional questions about this project, please call James Fouts of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health at 845-486-3404 or Dr. Rich Falco, Regional Medical Entomologist of the NYSDOH at 914-273-3078, Ext. 33.

Very truly yours,



James D. Fouts

Associate Public Health Sanitarian

Anticipated cities/towns to survey in 2016 include:

Beacon
East Fishkill
Fishkill
Hyde Park
Pawling
Pleasant Valley
City of Poughkeepsie
Town of Poughkeepsie
Rhinebeck
Wappinger