NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

2013 HEALTH ADVISORY #34: Pesticide Spraying Notification to Reduce Mosquito Activity and Control West Nile Virus in Queens

August 26, 2013

Please Distribute to Staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine

Pesticide Spraying Notification to Reduce Mosquito Activity in Queens

Weather Permitting, Pesticide Application by Trucks is Scheduled for ***Thursday, August 29, 2013*** between 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM the Following Morning in Areas of:

Parts of Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, Hollis Hill, and Queens Village

(Zip Codes: Parts of the following zip codes: 11001, 11004, 11005, 11362, 11426, 11427, and 11428)

A map of areas to be treated is available at http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/environmental/wnv-spray.shtml. In the event of rain, high winds or equipment malfunction, all operations will continue on the following evening.

Dear Colleagues,

Due to rising West Nile virus and adult mosquito activities, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will spray pesticide from trucks in the above-listed neighborhoods beginning at 8:00 PM on **Thursday, August 29, 2013**. If weather does not permit, or equipment malfunctions occur, spraying will be delayed until **Tuesday, September 3, 2013**.

The City will use a very low rate of Anvil 10 + 10 containing pyrethroid phenothrin and synergist piperonyl butoxide for its adult mosquito control efforts. Thorough environmental review and epidemiologic analyses conducted subsequent to spray events have shown that the public in general is not expected to experience symptoms given the low level of exposure that may occur during the spraying events. Some individuals, however, may be particularly sensitive to ingredients in the pesticides and may experience adverse reactions. Such individuals could experience transient effects, such as skin, eye and mucous membrane irritation, as well as exacerbation of chronic conditions such as asthma or other respiratory conditions. The NYC DOHMH advises persons to stay indoors during the ground spraying of pesticides. For additional information regarding Anvil and other mosquito control products, please see our website at: http://nyc.gov/health/wnv.

Also, please call 311 or 212-676-2018 if you would like a copy of the Anvil labels and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) faxed or mailed to your office.

We encourage physicians to seek consultation with the New York City Poison Control Center (NYC PCC) if they suspect a patient may have pesticide poisoning. A confirmed or suspected pesticide poisoning is reportable under the provisions of the New York City Health Code and the New York State Sanitary Code. Providers must report such poisonings to the NYC PCC at 212-764-7667 (212-POISONS) and to the New York State Department of Health, Pesticide Poisoning Registry (800)-322-6850.

Please note that the application may be delayed as a result of unfavorable weather conditions (i.e., rain, high winds) or equipment malfunction. For more up-to-date information on the spraying activities, you may call City Information at 3-1-1. Extensive information is also available on the City's website at: http://nyc.gov/health/wnv.

As a reminder, physicians and other health care providers play a critical role in the detection and prevention of West Nile virus outbreaks. Now that mosquito activity is increasing, please remind your patients that they can take precautions against mosquito bites and West Nile virus by limiting time outdoors between dusk and dawn in areas with significant mosquito infestations, and by wearing protective clothing and using insect repellents. Mosquito repellents can be effective when applied before going outdoors in areas where mosquitoes are active. Repellents containing the active ingredients picaridin, DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 are known to be effective in preventing mosquito bites. Always remind patients to use repellents in accordance with the label instructions and in a concentration best suited to the individual.

Additional information on West Nile virus and mosquito control activities may be found on the following websites:
NYC DOHMH: http://nyc.gov/health/wnv
CDC: http://cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/

Sincerely,

Daniel Kass, M.S.P.H.

Daniel Kass, M.S.P.H.
Deputy Commissioner

Categories of urgency levels for NYC DOHMH Broadcast Notification System:
Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action