



May 13, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

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Mosquito surveillance and control for West Nile Virus in 2011
Property Owners Take Charge

Jefferson County Public Health is notifying property owners that due to budgetary cutbacks we are no longer able to provide a program to control West Nile Virus (WNV) and other mosquito borne diseases in Jefferson County.

In past years, standing water on properties throughout the County has been evaluated by the Jefferson County WNV contractor for the presence of mosquitoes and treated if mosquito larvae were found. However, beginning in 2011, any standing water that has the potential to breed mosquitoes will be the responsibility of the property owner, meaning they must provide all WNV monitoring and control activities on their property. This applies to all cities, parks, special districts, and private property in the county.

Eliminating standing water is the most effective way to stop mosquito breeding. If the water can not be eliminated, the installation of an aerator to keep the water flowing is the next best step. If this is not possible, clean the edges of your pond of grass, moss, and bushes to eliminate the breeding sites for mosquito larvae.

The last and final step that should be considered is biological control using an environmental friendly larvicide, such as BT (*bacillus thuringiensis*) throughout the summer. This will kill the mosquitoes before they have a chance to hatch and fly. These types of larvicides can be purchased over the internet, from a local home improvement sites or you may contact contractors listed in the yellow pages under "pests."

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The Fight the Bite website <http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com/> provides valuable

Golden Office	1801 19 th Street	Golden, CO 80401	303.271.5700 – office	303.271.5702 – fax
Lakewood Clinic	260 S Kipling Street	Lakewood, CO 80226	303.232.6301 – office	303.239.7088 – fax
Arvada Clinic	6303 Wadsworth Bypass	Arvada, CO 80003	303.275.7500 – office	303.275.7503 – fax

information on the actions you can take to prevent and control mosquitoes.

This summer, as the mosquito population inevitably increases along with the possibility of exposure to WNV, the public will be reminded of the importance of adhering strictly to the 4 "Ds" to prevent mosquito bites and WNV.

- Use **DEET** or another [insect repellent](#) every time you are outside, even for very short periods of time
- **DRAIN** all standing water around your home and replace the water in your kiddie pools and bird feeders every 5 days.
- **DRESS** properly in long sleeve shirts and long pants while outdoors.
- At **DAWN and DUSK** when mosquitoes are most active, limit your outside activity.

Jefferson County Public Health will provide assistance and guidance in dealing with mosquito issues but will be unable to provide direct services for investigation and control of mosquito breeding sites.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV can cause serious, life-altering, and even fatal disease. Protect yourself and your family by using insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and long pants when outdoors and get rid of standing water in the yard where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

- For more information, please contact David Volkel, Environmental Health Specialist with the JCPH Animal borne disease program, dvolkel@jeffco.us .

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