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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**MOSQUITO SPRAYING PLANNED FOR FORBIDDEN DRIVE**

PHILADELPHIA- Weather permitting, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Vector Control staff will apply treatments to control adult mosquitoes on Monday evening, September 16, on Forbidden Drive in the northwest section of the City's Fairmount Park system. The area is bounded Northwestern Avenue and Lincoln Drive. Treatment will be administered at dusk.

Samples taken by Vector Control staff in the targeted area have revealed adult mosquito populations that can potentially carry the West Nile virus. Treatments will be administered via a truck-mounted machine spraying fine aerosol droplets. The mist stays aloft and kills mosquitoes on contact. The truck-mounted apparatus sprays Anvil 10 + 10, a synthetic pyrethroid, a product that has no residual effects, and evaporates quickly into the atmosphere. Pyrethroid, derived from the chrysanthemum flower, has no ill effects on human health.

Certain mosquito species carry West Nile virus which, when transmitted to people, can cause West Nile encephalitis, an infection that can result in an inflammation of the brain. Individuals are urged to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use an effective insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants or consider staying indoors during these hours.

Residents can take a number of measures around the home to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas, including:

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that may have collected on a property.
- Drain or dispose of discarded tires where mosquitoes breed.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor recycling containers.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows.
- Don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools. A swimming pool left untended by a family on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to cause a neighborhood-wide problem.

To prevent mosquito bites:

- Make sure screens fit tightly over doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, particularly when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, or in areas known to have large numbers of mosquitoes.

- When possible, reduce outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk during peak mosquito periods, usually April through October.
- Use insect repellents according to the manufacturer's instructions. An effective repellent will contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Consult with a pediatrician or family physician about the use of repellent on children. Repellent is not recommended for children under the age of two months.

For more information about West Nile virus and the state's surveillance and control program, go to [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us). For questions of the West Nile Virus program in Philadelphia call 215-685-9000.

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