

# **IBERIA PARISH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**August 3, 2012**

Iberia Parish Mosquito Abatement District's Arbovirus surveillance program for West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis and Eastern Equine Encephalitis is clearly in "uncharted waters" with today's report from LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Arbovirus Laboratory. This afternoon, LSUSVM reported 14 additional WNV positive mosquito pools to the Iberia Parish Mosquito Control District bringing this year's total to 44 WNV positive mosquito pools. Previously, 2009 was the high point with 29 WNV positive mosquito pools for the year. Laboratory reports of virus activity in Iberia Parish are consistent with reports from around the state, with 21 new human infections and our first WNV related fatalities reported today by DHH OPH. Citizens can expect to see escalated mosquito control operations that will extend into the weekend. It is not the District's intention to disrupt outdoor activities --- hypersensitive individuals or those who wish to avoid all exposure to pesticides, please step inside briefly, trucks or aircraft will be out of the area momentarily. **Citizens must adhere to guidance given by national, state, parish and mosquito control professionals to protect themselves against mosquito bites and mosquito borne diseases!** It is imperative that citizens keep insect repellent handy, wear light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants when mosquitoes are most active and get rid of mosquito breeding sites near the home! Residents throughout the Parish are urged to follow these simple guidelines recommended by the CDC.

- **Apply mosquito repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and apply as directed on the label!**
- **Protect children sensitive to insect bites with repellent and cover exposed skin --- there are many preparations sold in drug stores and camping sections of local stores that are formulated for adults as well as children.**
- **Wear light colored, light weight clothing with long sleeves and long pants when outdoors particularly at DAWN and DUSK.**
- **Avoid wearing perfumes or colognes when outside for prolonged periods.**
- **Remove all sources of standing water near your home (i.e. cans, barrels, planters, tires, containers and tarps).**
- **Keep all pools, spas, bird baths, ponds and fountains clean and free of debris.**

- **Maintain tight fitting screens on doors and windows.**
- **Don't FEED the storm drains! Sweep up lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs from sidewalks and driveways.**

If you have any questions or mosquito related problems feel free to contact our office at (337) 365-4933. Please visit us on the web [www.iberiparishgovernment.com](http://www.iberiparishgovernment.com) and click on “**Mosquito Control**” as well as our **Facebook** link! For more information about West Nile Virus and pesticides for mosquito control please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

Any questions after office hours please contact Herff Jones (337) 380-7140