More than 50 species of mosquitoes are present in Indiana. Most of these species are simply annoying. However, there are a few species that can threaten public health because of their ability to transmit viral diseases.

The LaPorte County Health Department Vector Control Program conducts routine surveillance for arboviruses during late spring and throughout the summer. Arboviruses are a large group of viruses that are spread by arthropods such as mosquitoes and ticks. Surveillance includes the trapping of adult mosquitoes in light traps and the collection of certain dead bird species for arbovirus screenings. These screenings are performed by the Indiana State Department of Health Microbiology labs and are looking for such diseases as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and LaCrosse Encephalitis just to name a few. Larvicides are also applied throughout the county to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes and therefore slowing the potential spread of arboviruses.

Larvicide Products Used by Vector Control Program

VectoBac (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*)

- Natural bacteria enclosed in corn cob material. Larvae ingest bacteria, which then produce crystallized toxins, disrupting digestion tract.
- Used to treat bodies of water without high amounts of organic matter, such as containers, ditches, low areas, marshes, wetlands, ponds, swimming pools, woodland pools, and tires.
- Lasts in water for only a couple of weeks.

VectoLex (*Bacillus sphaericus*)

- Natural bacteria enclosed in corn cob material. Larvae ingest bacteria, which then produce crystallized toxins, disrupting digestion tract.
- Used to treat bodies of water with high amounts of organic matter, such as containers, ditches with sewage, low areas, marshes, wetlands, ponds, swimming pools, woodland pools, and tires.
- According to manufacturer, lasts in water for up to 30 days.

Abate (temephos)

- Insect growth regulator. Larvae ingest chemical and develop into pupae, but die in this stage.
- Used to treat containers, inaccessible swimming pools and spas, and tires.
- Provides up to 30 days of control.

What Do I Do If I Find A Dead Bird?

Dead wild birds should not be handled with bare hands. If you do need to dispose of a dead bird, do not handle it with your bare hands. Use gloves or a plastic bag turned inside out over your hand to pick up the bird and dispose of it in the trash.

Blue jays, crows, falcons, and hawks are highly sensitive to the virus, and therefore are the best indicators of West Nile virus activity in a community. They are the only species of birds that the State Laboratory is testing for the virus. Report dead birds to the LPCHD by calling 219-326-6808 ext. 200 or 219-874-5611 ext. 200 during regular office hours: 8am-4pm, Monday –Friday. Birds must be dead less than 24 hours, have no obvious signs of trauma (open wounds), and must be in good condition (no decomposition or insect infestation). The bird should be kept cold by placing it in a cooler with ice until the LPCHD can be notified.

For information on Repellents

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm
http://www.deetonline.org/
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/resources/repellent%20timeline%20poster041207.pdf
http://npic.orst.edu/wnv/
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/insectrp.htm

West Nile Virus Information

http://www.in.gov/isdh/healthinfo/westnile/index.htm

Pesticide Information

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/larvicides4mosquitoes.htm
http://www.npic.orst.edu/

Mosquito Borne Diseases
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arbdet.htm
http://www.entm.purdue.edu/publichealth/index.html

Tick Borne Diseases
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/list_tickborne.htm
http://www.entm.purdue.edu/publichealth/index.html