**Public Notice: Eastern equine encephalitis detected in northern Indiana**

The Indiana Department of Health will be conducting the aerial application of pesticide in portions of Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall and Noble counties next week

to control Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus in northern Indiana.

The Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall and Noble county health departments and the Indiana Department of Health have been working together to monitor Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus activity. As of Sept. 18, one lab-confirmed human case has been reported in LaPorte County, and cases have been identified in two horses in LaGrange County, one horse in Kosciusko County and one horse in LaPorte County. The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) suspects EEE in three additional horses in LaGrange County.

Due to the detection of EEE activity in the area, health officials will perform targeted mosquito control utilizing aerial spraying to help protect residents from EEE. While rare, EEE virus can cause serious illness and has a fatality rate of about 33 percent in people.

Mosquito control professionals will apply an approved pesticide, Dibrom, as an ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay suspended in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact. Dibrom has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1959 for use in the United States. Dibrom immediately begins to break down upon release of the spray droplets in the open air and breaks down rapidly in water and in sunlight.

Health officials plan targeted mosquito control to help protect residents from EEE beginning Tuesday evening and continuing Wednesday if needed as weather permits. Residents should take actions to protect ornamental fish ponds and bee hives.

Protecting the public health is the primary goal of the decision. The spray area is centered around the area where human and equine cases have been detected. Mosquito spraying is not expected to pose a risk to humans. People who wish to minimize their exposure to mosquito spraying may choose to remain indoors for several hours, beginning at dusk on Tuesday and Wednesday.

While the spraying is expected to kill 90 percent of mosquitoes, residents in the area are urged to continue to take precautions until the first hard freeze, including:

* Avoiding areas where mosquitoes breed
* Staying indoors when mosquitoes are active
* Utilizing an EPA-registered insect repellent
* Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants in areas of high mosquito activity

In addition, residents are urged to check their property for mosquito breeding sites and take the following actions:

* Empty containers that are holding water
* Unclog gutters
* Keep overgrown vegetation mowed
* Dispose of old tires
* Maintain screens in doorways and windows
* Swimming pools should be maintained clean and operational
* Ornamental ponds should be aerated to prevent the collection of mosquito larvae.

For more information about EEE, visit the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html>.