

Town of Bedford  
West Nile Virus - Mosquito Treatment Program  
July 2020

The Bedford Department of Public Works has started its annual program to treat catch basins to prevent West Nile Virus, a disease carried by the Culex (Q-lex) mosquito. This mosquito mostly breeds in storm drains, but can also survive in any open container holding even a half inch of water.

According to the Center for Disease Control, it is important to target the larvae stage of the mosquito, since once the adult has hatched, it can transmit the virus to humans and animals. Small packets that contain a selective insecticide for the Culex larvae will be dropped by licensed DPW employees into catch basins in target neighborhoods. These areas include senior populations, horse barns, densely populated and public lands. The active chemical, Bacillus sphaericus, prevents mosquitos from reproducing. The chemical is not harmful to humans, fish, pets, plants or birds.

For additional information, please contact either the Bedford DPW or the Bedford Board of Health. The Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control District is overseeing this annual project and can be reached at (781) 899-5730.