



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

80 State Highway 310, Suite 2 ■ Canton, New York 13617-1476

Phone: (315) 386-2325 ■ Fax: (315) 386-2203

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact **Jenna Thompson**

jthompson@stlawco.gov

315-386-2325

St. Lawrence County Public Health Department Launches Mosquito Surveillance Program to Track Disease-Carrying Species

Canton, NY — The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department (SLCPHD) has officially launched a mosquito surveillance program designed to monitor mosquito populations and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses across the county.

While mosquitoes are often considered seasonal nuisances, their bites can occasionally transmit serious viruses to both humans and animals. In New York State, mosquito-borne viruses of concern include West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

This new surveillance initiative involves placing mosquito traps in both residential areas and public spaces throughout St. Lawrence County. The traps are designed to collect data on mosquito activity, helping SLCPHD identify areas with high populations and assess the potential risk of disease transmission. In response, targeted actions, such as public education campaigns and potentially pesticide applications, will be used to reduce mosquito threats and protect community health.



An example of the surveillance tools being used is the CDC light trap, currently located near SUNY Potsdam and the Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. These traps use light and carbon dioxide (CO₂) to attract mosquitoes, which are then collected in a net for further analysis. The community is reminded not to disturb or tamper with the traps, especially when spotted in wooded or public areas, as interference may result in injury.

The success of this program is made possible through the invaluable support and expertise of local academic partners. SUNY Potsdam, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), and Clarkson University have all played critical roles in setting up mosquito traps and conducting testing on collected samples. Their scientific contributions are helping to ensure accurate data collection and timely analysis.



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Residents are encouraged to take preventive steps at home, such as removing standing water from yards and using EPA-registered insect repellent when spending time outside. Community cooperation is essential to the effectiveness of this program.

For more information about the mosquito surveillance program or how to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne illnesses, please contact the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department at 315-386-2325 or visit our website.

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