City of New Bedford
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For Immediate Release

City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Targeted Ground Spraying for Mosquitoes Scheduled in New Bedford Early Thursday Morning

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The New Bedford Board of Health announced today that the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will conduct targeted ground spraying early on the morning of Thursday, July 3, 2014 in areas of New Bedford including downtown and the historic district, and the spraying will take place between 2:00 am and sunrise on Thursday morning. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows on Wednesday night prior to the spraying.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control Project has begun their surveillance efforts this season to track the potential for EEE and WNV carrying mosquitoes. Mosquito traps are in place to collect additional pools of mosquitoes and monitoring of mosquito populations will be on-going to assess the effectiveness of the spraying effort.

Residents may request a ground spray by calling the Bristol County Mosquito Control project at (508) 823-5253, between 8:00am - 2:00pm (June - September), or contacting them by E-mail at RequestBristolMCP@comcast.net.

The following precautions are advised:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** – While mosquitoes are out at all hours of the day, their peak biting times are from dusk to dawn. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, especially if you work or spend a lot of time outdoors.

- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

- **Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors.** Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin, picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.

- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

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