



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2026

**TO REDUCE THE RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS, NYC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT
TARGETED MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATIONS**

Aerial larviciding operations will target non-residential marshes and wetlands in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island from August 10 to 13, weather permitting

Truck-based adulticiding is scheduled for August 10 and 12 in Staten Island and Queens

NEW YORK — The New York City Health Department will conduct multiple, targeted mosquito control operations in New York City next week, including both aerial treatment for mosquito larvae and truck-based treatment for adult mosquitos, due to increased West Nile virus activity and elevated adult mosquito populations identified through the Health Department’s mosquito surveillance program. No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in New York City this season.

Weather permitting, the Health Department will conduct targeted adult mosquito control (adulticiding) on Monday, August 10, in designated areas of Staten Island, and again on Wednesday, August 12, in Queens.

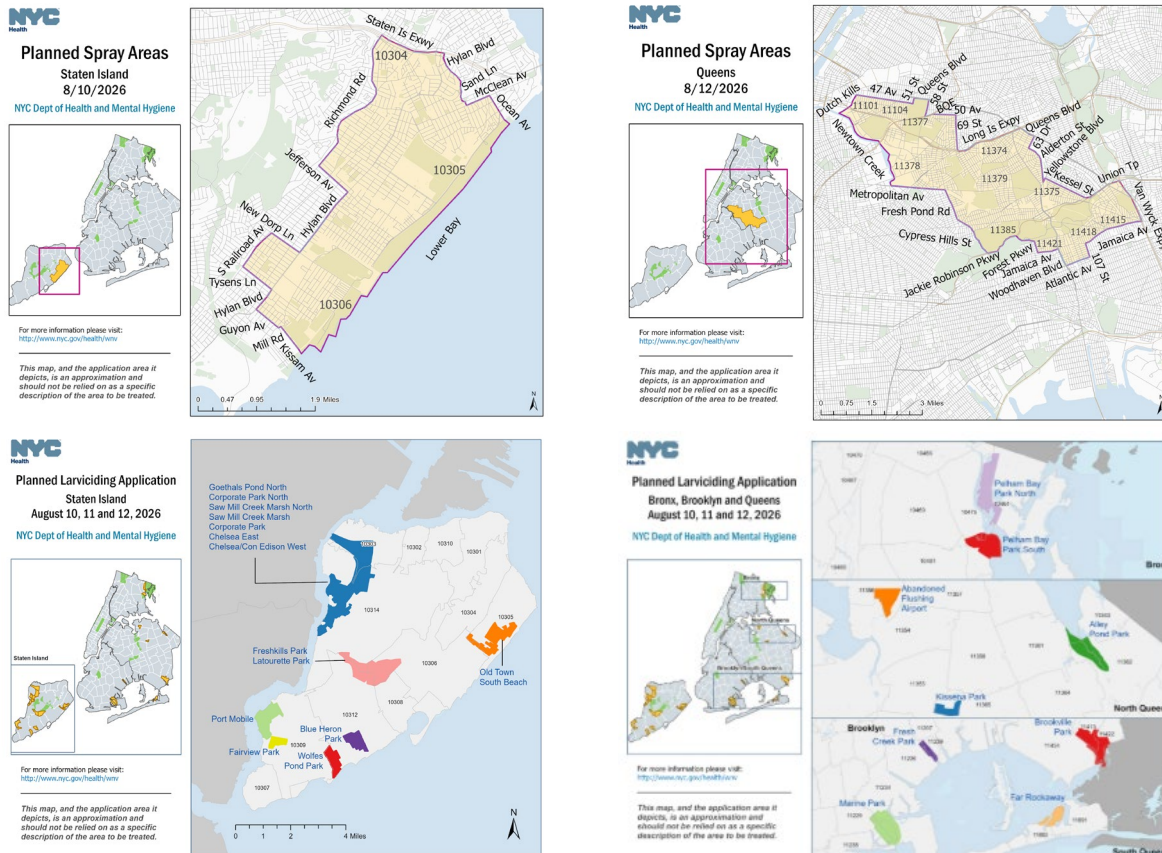
In addition to the targeted adult mosquito control operations, the Health Department will conduct separate aerial larviciding treatments over selected non-residential marshes and wetlands in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island between August 10 and August 12, weather permitting. Alternative dates are from August 11 to 14.

Unlike truck-based adult mosquito control, which targets flying adult mosquitoes, aerial larviciding targets mosquito larvae developing in standing water before they mature into biting adults. These complimentary operations are part of the Health Department’s integrated mosquito management program and help reduce mosquito populations while minimizing pesticide use.

“Our mosquito surveillance programs helps us identify areas where the risk of West Nile virus is increasing so we can take timely, targeted action to protect New Yorkers,” said **NYC Health Commissioner, Dr. Alister F. Martin**. Using multiple mosquito control

strategies, including aerial larviciding in marshes and wetlands and targeted truck-based mosquito control in areas at elevated risk, helps reduce mosquito populations and lowers the risk of West Nile virus while minimizing impacts on people and the environment.”

The following maps identify the treatment areas:



The decision to conduct adult mosquito control is based on findings from the Health Department’s ongoing mosquito surveillance program, which identified increased West Nile virus activity, elevated populations of mosquitoes capable of transmitting the virus, and an increased risk of virus transmission within the proposed treatment areas. These findings, combined with weather conditions that support mosquito breeding and virus amplification, the presence of suitable mosquito habitat, and the large number of people who live or visit the affected areas, support targeted mosquito control to reduce the risk of West Nile virus transmission.

The Health Department uses an integrated mosquito management approach that combines surveillance with targeted mosquito control methods to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease while minimizing pesticide use. This includes:

- **Aerial larviciding (helicopter applications):** An environmentally friendly biological larvicide is applied over non-residential marshes, wetlands, and other large natural mosquito breeding habitats to control mosquito larvae before they become biting adults. Helicopter applications are not conducted over residential neighborhoods.
- **Truck-based adulticiding (spraying):** Adult mosquitoes are treated in selected neighborhoods where surveillance indicates an elevated risk of West Nile virus transmission. Spraying takes place during the evening in residential areas and parks to reduce populations of adult mosquitoes.

The Health Department will apply Duet® an EPA-registered mosquito control product, using truck-mounted equipment. The product poses no significant risk to people or pets when applied according to label directions. People who wish to minimize exposure may choose to remain indoors during spraying and close windows facing the street until the application has been completed.

The aerial larviciding applications will use VectoBac® GS, a biological larvicide that targets mosquito larvae before they become biting adults. The treatment is limited to designated marsh and wetland breeding habitats and complements the Health Department's other mosquito control efforts to reduce the risk of West Nile virus.

While the Health Department conducts mosquito surveillance and targeted mosquito control throughout the season, New Yorkers can help reduce mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water around their homes, including in buckets, flowerpots, birdbaths, tarps and clogged gutters. Residents should also use EPA-registered insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors during peak mosquito activity, and ensure window and door screens are in good repair.

Maps of the treatment areas and additional information about mosquito control and West Nile virus are available at nyc.gov/health/wnv.

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