MEMO

Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project

www.cmmcp.org

TO: CMMCP Member Boards of Health

FROM: Timothy Deschamps, Executive Director

RE: 2016 Larval Mosquito Control program

DATE: March 14, 2016

COMMENCEMENT OF LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Please be advised that the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) will begin the 2016 larval mosquito control program **on or about March 21, 2016**. This program will be a continuation of the practices and procedures that have been used in past years. CMMCP will be conducting larval control applications in low-lying swampy areas where mosquito larvae are present using a granular form of Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a naturally occurring soil bacterium that specifically targets mosquito larvae. Additional applications will be made during the summer months if larval surveillance determines that additional control efforts are required. Information on Bti and all products used by CMMCP can be found on our website at www.cmmcp.org/pesticide.htm.

Bti is virtually non-toxic to humans, plants and animals. This product is impregnated on coarsely ground corncob granules, and is applied by hand at an application rate of 5-20 lbs/acre. According to information gathered from the EPA website, (http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/larvicides4mosquitoes.htm) *"The microbial pesticides* (such as Bti) *have undergone extensive testing prior to registration. They are essentially nontoxic to humans, so there are no concerns for human health effects with Bti* or *B. sphaericus when they are used according to label directions."*

As a reminder, current research shows that the mosquito species most likely to be potential vectors of West Nile Virus (WNV) develop in containers such as rain gutters, bird baths, or any other containers which hold water for more than five days. The public can play a major role in controlling these vectors by eliminating all standing water in containers on their property. CMMCP has distributed educational brochures and bookmarks to area town halls and libraries to educate the public on ways to reduce mosquito emergence from their area. The larval control program in area catch basins targeted at these WNV vectors will begin in mid to late May and will continue throughout the summer. CMMCP also has a tire collection program residents can participate in, please see www.cmmcp.org/tires.htm for details.

Notices were sent in January to all City and Town Clerks regarding the pesticide exclusion process. Any residents that would like to exclude their property from mosquito control must contact the local Clerk's office and/or the CMMCP office at (508) 393-3055.

Note: CMMCP will issue additional notices starting in May before residential fogging applications begin. These notices are issued 2 weeks prior to each scheduled month and are available on our website.