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NEWS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

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MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUS DETECTED IN SAGINAW COUNTY

Saginaw, MI – Routine surveillance conducted by the Saginaw County Mosquito Abatement Commission (SCMAC) has identified the first mosquito-borne virus activity in Saginaw County for the 2026 season. Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) was detected in three mosquito samples collected in the week of June 8, 2026. Although the current risk to residents is low, SCMAC encourages the public to take steps to prevent mosquito bites.

Recommended Mosquito Bite Prevention Measures

- Remove standing water from around your property, including water in containers, wading pools, tires, and other items that collect water. Report standing water in ditches, flooded yards, or fields to SCMAC.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors; light-colored clothing is recommended.
- Use insect repellents with EPA-approved ingredients as directed. Consult a physician before applying repellent to infants.
- Limit outdoor activity during peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn).
- Ensure window and door screens are intact and fit tightly. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes. Close doors and windows at night when possible.

Despite the start of summer, most of the nuisance mosquitoes currently active are spring species that emerged in May and prevalent in the wooded areas of the county. Some of these species can transmit JCV.

SCMAC continues comprehensive mosquito control operations throughout the season, focusing on areas that support mosquito species responsible for transmitting disease. Additional control efforts target other nuisance mosquito populations across the county.

Mosquito-borne viruses can spread when a mosquito becomes infected after feeding on an infected bird or mammal and then bites a human. Most human infections show no symptoms. When illness does occur, symptoms usually include sudden flu-like illness and fever. Severe, though rare, cases may involve neurological complications such as meningitis or encephalitis requiring hospitalization.



William W. Stanuszek, Director



JCV activity can occur from April through September and has been found in several mosquito species that readily bite humans. The virus naturally circulates between mosquitoes and animals, primarily deer.

SCMAC will continue monitoring mosquito-borne viruses through the end of September. Residents are encouraged to reduce exposure to mosquitoes and report any crow or blue jay found dead within the past 24 hours, as these birds are valuable for West Nile virus surveillance.

For more information about SCMAC programs and services, visit saginawmosquito.com or call (989) 755-5751.