



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Participates in Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance Project

Kingsford, MI, September 26, 2024— The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has concluded its first year as part of the MDHHS Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance Project. Beginning in late May 2024, the Environmental Health staff conducted 14 weeks of mosquito surveillance. Five mosquito traps were placed around Dickinson County, once weekly, for a 24-hour period. The mosquitoes collected were then identified by our staff. They were separated by genus and species if possible and sent to the state lab for arbovirus testing. Emphasis was given to the species known to transmit viruses that pose the largest threat to public health. Of the 3000 mosquitoes collected, nearly one third were submitted. A batch submitted from the end of June 2024 returned a positive result for Jamestown Canyon Virus.

The program also prioritized tickborne diseases. Tick drags were conducted to collect “black-legged ticks” for submission to a CDC lab to be tested for Lyme Disease, Anaplasma, and Babesia. The results for this testing will not be available until 2025. We hope to continue with this grant funded program in the future and learn more about arbovirus and tickborne disease risk in the Upper Peninsula. If you have questions or concerns about this program and its findings, please contact the Environmental Health Division at 906-779-7239.

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