

## Information on Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Three significant mosquito-borne diseases have been common in the news: Dengue fever, Chikungunya, and a new one, Zika virus. Most of the reported cases have been centered primarily in the Caribbean and in South American countries. These diseases have also been widely circulating in the Pacific, in Asia, and in the originating countries on the continent of Africa, but have been perhaps less reported in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has good information about each of these viruses. They will report on imported and locally acquired cases for each of these. As mosquito districts, you may receive questions about these diseases. For more information, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Although it is quite likely that travelers could bring viruses to Vermont, transmission within the state would be highly unlikely. This is because the two primary mosquito vector species, spreading the diseases worldwide, are not present in Vermont and could not survive here. *Aedes aegypti* is a tropical species of mosquito that arrived in the Caribbean probably in the 1600s and has been considered to be the most important vector species. *Aedes albopictus* is another introduced species, with a range that can handle temperate climates northward to New Jersey and Long Island. It is highly unlikely that it would be able to successfully overwinter in Vermont. Populations along coastal Connecticut do not appear to survive through the winter cold.

The risk of traveling in countries with known concerns about mosquito-borne disease should be explored using hospital travel clinics and the CDC site.

Approximate distribution of *Aedes aegypti* in the United States\*



Approximate distribution of *Aedes albopictus* in the United States\*



The Vermont Department of Health tracks diseases in the state and reports them to the CDC. The Weekly Morbidity and Mortality Report summarizes all the information from each of the states every week. The Vermont Department of Health website will continue to provide updated information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus and West Nile virus, two mosquito-borne viruses that have been found in Vermont. For more information, see: <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/arbovirus/>

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture collects mosquitoes throughout the state and sends them to the Vermont Department of Health for testing. For more information on trapping mosquitoes, see: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant\\_pest/mosquitoes\\_ticks/mosquitoes/mosquito\\_reports](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant_pest/mosquitoes_ticks/mosquitoes/mosquito_reports)