



MaryEllen Odell
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July 12 was Mosquito Control Day in Putnam County. Public Health Sanitarian Mike Luke shows Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Michael Nesheiwat, MD, Interim Health Commissioner, right, and Eric Gross, left, the mosquito larvae he had collected from a storm drain. One had developed into an adult flying mosquito in the jar in just a few short days. That is why it is so important for residents to dump all standing water.

The health department is deploying mosquito traps around the county and will send samples for testing at the NYS Wadsworth Lab in Albany. Two questions need to be answered: What mosquitos are in Putnam and what diseases, if any, do they carry? The only known transmitter of Zika virus is the the *Aedes aegypti* and it has never been found in Putnam. The Asian Tiger mosquito, the *Aedes albopictus*, has only been captured once here back in 2006, but it is still questionable whether or not it can transmit the Zika virus.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell reminds everyone that public support is an important and necessary part of any mosquito control program. Mosquito Control Day is a call to action for residents to dump standing water on their property now—and weekly throughout the summer, especially after a rainfall. Personal protection, in the form of mosquito repellent with DEET, is also highly advised. The event was videotaped. To see a recap of the event go to: <https://youtu.be/WeOpf39PCJw>

