

## ROADRUNNER PUBLIC HEALTH, INC.

November 6, 2019  
Vector control update  
To: Sandoval County Public Works  
From: Dr. Paul C. Sandoval

The 2019 mosquito fogging season is coming to an end. The work now turns to water surveys, and monitoring through the early spring. We placed larvicide briquettes and rings for the fall. This process is used to slow larvae hatching over warm winter days. The next major application will be in March 2020 weather permitting. We will start Spring flood planting in preparation for snow runoff.

During 2019 we saw the Vesicular Stomatitis Virus, Indiana Strain (VSV) outbreak and establish itself around the County. This was the first year to see VSV get so aggressive and move so quickly within a community and continue through the State. In 2018 there were 7 West Nile Virus Human cases reported. The New Mexico Department of Health reported 39 Human Cases of West Nile Virus in New Mexico in 2019 with four deaths. There were also two asymptomatic blood donors who tested positive for West Nile Virus in New Mexico in 2019: one from Socorro County and one from Valencia County. The donated blood supply in the United States is screened to prevent disease transmission through donated blood. The Human West Nile Virus cases were in West Rio Rancho and Corrales. Corrales was expected, while Rio Rancho was not planned for. The purpose of the program is to keep those mosquito numbers lower so the incidence of equine or human infection is greatly reduced.

During the end of season survey, we identified an Aedes Aegypti mosquito. She is known as the Zika mosquito, a container breeder. She carries, Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya, Rift Valley Fever. Her habits are different as she is a day biter and likes to breed around humans in containers. We will continue to monitor her and treat as necessary. As of today, she has not transmitted any of her diseases. When the newer viruses are introduced, then she will have the ability to transmit to humans. VSV and the Aedes Aegypti are here to stay. We will be getting new treatment and surveying equipment while managing like we did for the VSV surge. We will continue to treat for VSV as a preventative measure in the Spring through the end of June as per the agreement.

I recommend the County get prepared to manage the new VSV and the Zika Mosquito. Next summer will have an earlier and smoother start so that will also help the program advance with mosquito management. Have a great fall and winter.