**INVASIVE MOSQUITOES**

**What mosquitoes are invasive?**
Certain *Aedes* mosquitoes are not native to Washington, and when introduced, may spread rapid. Two species of concern, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, are known carriers of Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses in the United States. Though these mosquitoes are not yet present in our state, other newly introduced invasive *Aedes* species have begun to spread here.

**How can they get here?**
Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes lay eggs in natural locations, such as tree holes and plants axils and artificial containers with water. Commercial shipping of water-holding containers and plants, both international and within the country, can transport mosquitoes into new areas. Past findings of *Aedes albopictus* determined that mosquito larvae arrived in Washington via cargo containers of imported used tires and lucky bamboo plants.

**Where would I find them?**
Check water-holding containers and plants, particularly those recently imported, for mosquitoes in their immature life stages—eggs, larvae, and pupae. They prefer containers with water containing organic matter, such as decaying leaves or algae. Adult mosquitoes bite people and animals, so they tend to stay close to homes or in neighboring woods.

**What can I do to help?**
Take steps to control mosquitoes inside and outside of your home. Be on the watch for invasive *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. Report a sighting to the Washington State Department of Health, Zoonotic Disease Program at 360-236-3385 or zd@doh.wa.gov.

**How do I distinguish *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* from native species?**

- ***Aedes albopictus***
  - Small, dark mosquito with a white lyre-shaped marking with banded legs.

- ***Aedes aegypti***
  - Small, dark mosquito with a white dorsal stripe and banded legs.

**How to prevent disease spread by mosquitoes?**
Mosquitoes, native or invasive, can carry disease. The best way to protect yourself and family is to avoid mosquito bites.

- **Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing when mosquitoes are most active.**
- **Properly apply an EPA-registered repellent with the active ingredient, DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon-eucalyptus, or 2-undecanone.**
- **Repair or replace window and door screens to keep out mosquitoes.**

For more tips, visit our Mosquitoes webpage, www.doh.wa.gov and search "mosquito."