

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does a larviciding program involve?

A larviciding program involves identification and mapping standing water of the type in which mosquitoes lay their eggs, to sample these water bodies and then to treat sites mosquito larvae are found. Municipalities are expected to sample (i.e. dip) the sites of standing water to confirm the presence of larvae before treating those sites and to evaluate effectiveness by sampling after larviciding applications. Most municipalities treat their sites with biological control products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis var Israeliensis* or *B.t.i.* for short (trade names: Vectobac, Aquabac, Teknar). Guidelines for larval sampling and larviciding and a log for tracking larva sampling and larviciding activities are included with the 2007 mosquito control grant package.

2. Where do I purchase larvicide?

There are a number of suppliers of the biological products used to control mosquitoes. Larger supplies of product can be obtained directly from distributors across Canada or through local suppliers. Product purchase and application requires a qualified operator with a valid Pesticide Applicators License. The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) offers a larvicide purchase program for its members where municipalities wishing to order smaller quantities of product can take advantage of cost savings through bulk pricing offered on minimum orders. For more information on this program contact SUMA at www.suma.org (follow the links from SUMA Advantage to Larvicide) or at (306) 525-4373. Small quantities of larvicide (i.e. 500 grams) can be purchased from many hardware and other retail stores. You do not have to be licensed to purchase or apply these smaller quantities of product as long as they are used for domestic use on your own property.

3. What is source reduction?

Source reduction is the removal of mosquito larval development sites in and around homes and businesses, including removal of standing water from tires, planters, bird baths, rain barrels, eaves troughs, ditches, or small depressions. It can include mowing vegetation, silt removal, cleaning out culverts and filling in depressions. It does not include drainage of sloughs or other water bodies as these areas often harbor beneficial insects and animals that are predators of mosquito larvae. Source reduction of resting sites includes mowing of tall grass, clipping of shrubs and trees or other methods of opening up the vegetation canopy where mosquito adults rest during the day.

4. Why do I have to apply for cost shared funding now?

Cost-shared funding under this program is limited, so municipalities and First Nations are encouraged to apply for funding to ensure that funds are available for mosquito control programs throughout the entire spring and summer season. It is also important that communities are prepared to respond as soon as *Culex tarsalis* larvae become more common – usually by late spring and early summer. Controlling all generations of *Culex tarsalis* larvae is important in reducing the risk from WNV.

5. What costs are eligible for Provincial Cost-Sharing?

The Province's cost-sharing assistance to municipalities will be available only for costs associated with WNV-related surveillance, larviciding, source reduction or public awareness activities undertaken in 2007 in accordance with a plan approved by Saskatchewan Health. The following will be eligible for cost share funding:

- Program planning including local planning and administration and meeting with other municipalities, agencies or regional health authorities (to a maximum of 15%)
- Training and workshops for staff to obtain licensing and permits or receive training in mosquito control
- Operation of adult mosquito traps and sending in samples
- **Note: In 2007 only larviciding activities that are done in June-July-August are eligible for cost-shared funding under the provincial program. However, any larvicide product that is purchased prior to this period is eligible for cost-shared funding.**
- Monitoring (i.e. dipping) of mosquito development sites before and after a larviciding operation during the June – August period.
- Employee wages for time spent larviciding (this includes larval sampling) during the June - August WNV season.
- Cost of larvicides (i.e. Vectobac, Aquabac)
- Rental of ATV/truck during the WNV larviciding period (June-July-August)
- Purchase of equipment such as a backpack blowers or hand held granular applicators
- Fuel for vehicle(s) used during larviciding rounds during the June-August period.
- Costs incurred by a municipality to contract an independent third party to conduct the larviciding during the June-August period/
- Pesticide permits, licensing, and insurance costs that are purchased specifically for the purpose of WNV-related mosquito control
- Public education including distribution of WNV materials or notification of clean-up campaigns. Saskatchewan Health and your local regional health authority will have communications materials such as brochures and posters available for communities)

6. What costs are not eligible for Provincial Cost-Sharing?

The following items are **not** eligible for cost share funding reimbursement:

- All nuisance mosquito control activities conducted before June 1 and after August 31, unless otherwise approved by Saskatchewan Health
- Grass mowing
- Insurance and liability coverage that is purchased/required for other purposes.
- Pesticide permit and/or licensing costs that are purchased/required for other purposes

- The purchase of lawnmowers, ATV or any other vehicle.
- Repellents
- Depreciation on vehicles and equipment
- Any cost of backpacks, stocks of larvicide or other materials claimed in previous years

7. *What are the primary factors that will be considered in making decisions about cost shared funding for larviciding?*

Typically, decisions will not be based on any one factor alone, but instead will be a judgment based upon available information and evidence in a particular set of circumstances, including:

- Population density/size of municipality
- Partnerships with other municipalities or groups (i.e. A.D.D. Boards)
- Appropriateness of the mosquito control program that is proposed
- Accessibility to standing water
- WNV risk area

8. *What about costs incurred before the plan is approved?*

Only items approved in the plan for the 2007 season will be eligible for cost recovery. For municipalities operating on a calendar year basis, expenses incurred after Jan. 1, 2007 will be allowed (i.e. purchase of larvicide, staff training, etc.), provided that they are for the 2007 program. Municipalities concerned about cost-sharing may want to wait for approval of their plan prior to incurring costs.

9. *Who do I send the application to?*

Proposals should be sent to your local Health Authority or Health Canada (First Nation and Inuit Health Branch) and/or Tribal Council Health Agency in the case of First Nation communities. Please see list of WNV regional contacts and addresses. The Health Authority will review the proposal and send it on to Saskatchewan Health for final approval.

10. *When is the Province's share of the costs going to be paid?*

If an application for cost-shared funding is approved, the municipality or First Nation will receive 100% percent of the government portion of the funds after final approval by Saskatchewan Health if the proposal is under \$5,000 and 75% of the funds if the proposal is over \$5,000. For proposals, over \$5,000 the remaining 25% portion of the funding will be made in the fall after the Program Activity and Reconciliation Form is completed and approved (see below). The municipality will be responsible for their portion of the funding and for undertaking the mosquito control program as described in their plan. The deadline for receipt of proposals for cost-shared funding is **June 30, 2007**.

If a municipality anticipates exceeding the allotted funding, Saskatchewan Health will only pay up to the limit of the per capita funding amount and the municipality or First Nation will have to pay

the extra costs. ***Extra costs not outlined or exceeding the amount of the initially approved application will not be supported by the provincial program.***

11. *What if a community only has a limited budget for mosquito control?*

There are several things a community can do if funds are limited for mosquito control. Communities can identify and prioritize those larval development sites that pose the most risk in a particular area, and confine treatments to these areas. They can establish a 5-year plan for source reduction and clean up to remove some of the more problematic sites (i.e. tire piles that hold water, improving drainage, etc.) by doing a little bit each year. Finally, they can restrict their larviciding treatments to the summer-time or to those sites that mainly produce *Culex tarsalis*. This species is usually more abundant after the middle of June and throughout the early summer.

12. *What supporting documents will be required by the Province for the costs of the program?*

If a plan is approved and implemented, the municipality will need to submit a ***Program Activity and Reconciliation Form*** to Saskatchewan Health no later than ***November 30, 2007***. This reconciliation information is required from all municipalities, even those using third party service providers. The form will list a summary of details of the mosquito control actions taken, including dates of mosquito control, pesticide use, number of staff, salaries, etc. Copies of invoices or journal entries do not need to be submitted to Saskatchewan Health, but audits will be conducted and copies of invoices will have to be provided if asked. (Note: It is advisable to submit copies of invoices if you can because it makes the reconciliation and review process faster).

13. *What about cost shared funding for adult mosquito control?*

Cost-shared funding for adult mosquito control is not available under this particular program. However, funding support will be provided for adult mosquito control where such measures are recommended by the local Medical Health Officer and are pre-approved by Saskatchewan Health and based on an assessment of an imminent risk to human health. This assessment includes a number of risk indicators. The average number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected per week, infection rates of those mosquitoes, effectiveness of other mosquito control measures, time of year and weather conditions are some of the factors that are considered in making decisions regarding adult mosquito control for reducing WNV risk. If adult mosquito control is carried out in a particular community to reduce the risk from WNV, Saskatchewan Health will reimburse the community for 100% of the cost, based on pre-approved rates.

Some communities in the province maintain and operate their own ground based ULV sprayers for adult mosquito control. Saskatchewan Health also maintains three units with trucks and operators on standby during the period of highest risk for WNV – July and August.