

01/04/2005

## **Regional Policy for a Standardized Preparedness and Management Approach for West Nile Virus for Health Purposes: Mosquito Surveillance, Education and Larval Control for Surface Waters on Public Lands**

### **Scope**

On March 26, 2004 the GVRD Board adopted a policy setting the minimal standard for management of larval mosquitoes in surface waters for health purposes on public lands. In continuation of the effort to support the Province in its strategy, the GVRD, through a Working Group of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee, has developed an updated standardized approach for both the preparedness and management of larval mosquitoes in surface waters for health purposes on public lands.

The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group, representing municipalities as well as the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities, the University of British Columbia Plant Operations, the Provincial government, some federal agencies and other jurisdictions, has prepared the following policy table outlining the approach, the tasks involved, the jurisdictional responsibilities and the timing required to control larval WNV-vector mosquitoes in surface waters.

This policy is based on the regional/local governments, as land owners, and other land-owning jurisdictions assuming responsibility for the management of mosquitoes on their lands. Mosquito management on private lands is the property owner's responsibility and will be managed by the Regional Health Authorities under the provision of the *Health Act*.

Owners of lands of other jurisdictions within the region have been requested to voluntarily adopt this policy. Within the context of West Nile Virus management it is imperative that every jurisdiction undertake a comprehensive pre-emptive larval control program. Flying mosquitoes know no boundaries and lands left unmanaged for them can contribute to additional regional populations in jurisdictions that are managing them.

Actions proposed in the policy will be undertaken within budget limits applied for the fiscal year. The Provincial Government should recognize the budget planning cycle of municipalities and jurisdictions for grant funding purposes.

### **Definitions:**

'Areas of environmental sensitivity' include environmentally sensitive locations (e.g. registered organic farms, watercourses, wetlands and fish-bearing waters.)

'Jurisdiction' means chartered companies, municipalities, the GVRD, the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities, school districts, the Crown Provincial, the Crown Federal or their groupings of associated agencies.

'Lead' means to take responsibility for implementing the task described.

'Public land' means any lands owned by a municipality, the GVRD or any other governmental jurisdiction or chartered company or agency.

‘Support’ means to provide assistance or input to the lead jurisdiction responsible for implementing the task.

### Acronyms

GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District

REAC – Regional Engineers Advisory Committee

RHA – Regional Health Authority

WNV – West Nile Virus

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed & Other Jurisdictions	
<b>A. Sustainable Response Planning</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should prepare a sustainable WNV response plan for their surface waters based on this policy.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
2. Each jurisdiction should regularly monitor and evaluate its surface waters response plan.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
3. The Provincial governments should be encouraged to provide ongoing financial assistance to local governments in implementing sustainable surface water WNV response plans.	support	lead	support others	support others lead on own assets (e.g. crown-owned lands)	ongoing
4. Each jurisdiction should estimate its annual surface water WNV management costs (those changes over and above normal operations for accelerated maintenance or treatment) in a general framework to contribute to an annual regional roll-up.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	complete by Nov 30 each year
<b>B. Mapping &amp; Inventory</b>					
1. Surface water WNV-vector mosquito habitat in the jurisdiction should be digitally mapped and incorporated into the jurisdiction’s WNV database.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	complete in 2005
2. WNV-vector mosquito related data should be made available to participating jurisdictions to assist in providing a larger sub-regional or regional context.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	complete in 2005
3. Each jurisdiction should classify their identified surface water habitat according to the risk they pose for breeding WNV-vector mosquitoes.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	July 2005
4. Each jurisdiction should compile locations of areas of	lead	lead	support others	lead	January 2006

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed & Other Jurisdictions	
environmental sensitivity, and monitoring & surveillance results by individual jurisdictions.			lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)		
<b>C. Surveillance</b>					
1. In sampled surface waters each jurisdiction should record attributes and the data be maintained in its WNV database.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	Spring 2006
<b>D. Integrated Management for Larval Control</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should make adequate preparations for larval control of vector mosquitoes.	lead	lead	order or recommend	lead	ongoing
2. If it is not feasible to clean and treat all identified areas of concern, each jurisdiction should determine its treatment regime for its mosquito vector surface water habitat as resources allow.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
3. Each jurisdiction should monitor and evaluate the results of surface water treatments, if any, as resources allow.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
4. The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group should continue to investigate viable alternatives to the application of pesticide in surface waters for control of mosquitoes.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
5. Each jurisdiction should, over time, consider modification of potential vector mosquito habitat by physical or mechanical means to reduce their viability as mosquito breeding habitat (with caution to avoid disruption of sensitive habitats.)	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
6. The Regional Health Authorities should ensure that there are appropriate protocols in place to facilitate access for inspection, surveillance, monitoring and control of mosquitoes for health purposes, including private lands.	support	support	lead	support	complete in 2005
<b>E. Communications</b>					
1. The Regional Health Authorities/Province should prepare public messages on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private land owners responsibilities general WNV information;</li> </ul>	support	support	lead (jointly with PHSA and Province)	lead (jointly with RHAs); fed support	ongoing

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>surveillance results;</li> <li>treatment including personal protection, source reduction and adaptive management.</li> </ul>					
2. The GVRD should utilize its communication and education channels to assist the Regional Health Authorities to deliver the public messages across the Lower Mainland.	support	lead	lead	support	ongoing
3. Each jurisdiction may supplement the general regional and provincial communication messages with messaging specific to their needs including, where applicable, private land owners.	support	support	lead	support	ongoing
4. Messages concerning WNV mosquito management in surface waters should be disseminated to the public in a timely and consistent manner coordinated with those relating to catch basins.	lead	lead	lead	lead	Spring 2005
5. The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group should continue to act as a focus for information sharing and regional policy review on catch basin management for WNV management purposes.	support	lead	lead	support	ongoing
6. Each jurisdiction should share a summary of its experiences in surface water management for WNV prevention with other jurisdictions in the REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group to ensure that we are managing from a regional perspective.	lead	lead	lead	lead	November of each year
<b>F. Data Management</b>					
1. All jurisdictions should ensure that WNV data is collected or processed so that it can be made available in a common format compatible for regional use.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
<b>G. Training &amp; Technology</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should ensure that appropriate personnel are trained in the basics of responding to public inquiries related to the WNV response plan of their jurisdiction.	lead	lead	support others lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
<b>H. Research</b>					

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed & Other Jurisdictions	
1. Each jurisdiction should support the development of a predictive model that will facilitate the efficient management of mosquitoes for WNV.	support	lead	lead	support  (BC CDC to lead provincial agencies)	future

**Updated and approved by the GVRD Board on 01/04/2005**

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