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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 Mosquito Season in Full Swing

Carlisle, Pa. – The Cumberland County Vector Control Office kicked-off the 2018 mosquito season this week. The office is placing mosquito traps throughout the County all this week.

“We’ll be placing seven to 12 traps per day at various locations throughout Cumberland County,” said John Bitner, chief of the Vector Control/Weights & Measures Office. “We’re using [Gravid Traps](#), which resemble a tackle box with a nine volt battery inside, atop a dishpan tray. The pan has dirty, smelly water in it.”

Vector Control will monitor the traps throughout the spring and summer, including DEP testing of collected mosquitos for West Nile and Zika viruses. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan is used to help guide control methods at all mosquito stages. However, Vector Control reminds County residents that controlling mosquito populations can be as easy as tipping over a bucket.

“We highly recommend that containers be emptied of stagnant water every five days to prevent adult mosquitoes from emerging,” said Bitner. “Buckets, toys, flower pots, old tires and even bird baths can all be breeding grounds. It only takes one bottle cap of water to breed hundreds of mosquitos.”

Vector Control recommends treating water sources that cannot be drained with mosquito dunks or bits that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), which kills larvae. These products are labeled for use around humans and pets, and can be found at hardware and other local retailers.

Cumberland County Vector Control/Weights and Measures oversees the surveillance and control programs for various nuisance pests, conducting a proactive mosquito control program, and partnering with the State Black Fly and Gypsy Moth programs. Information on ticks and other household pests is also provided to County residents. Additionally, the department completes the testing and inspection of weighing and measuring devices, including fuel pumps, scales and devices used by commercial businesses. Learn more about the Department at www.ccpa.net/vector.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.