Illnesses from Mosquito, Tick, & Flea Bites Rising

- 14% of Portage County adults thought insects threatened their health. Source: Portage County Community Health Assessment

Almost everyone has been bitten by a mosquito, tick, or flea. These can be vectors for spreading pathogens (germs). A person who gets bitten by an insect and gets sick has a vector-borne disease, like dengue, Zika, Lyme, or plague. Between 2004 and 2016, more than 640,000 cases of these diseases were reported, and 9 new germs spread by bites from infected mosquitoes and ticks were discovered or introduced in the U.S.

State and local health departments and vector control organizations are the nation’s main defense against this increasing threat. Yet, 84% of local vector control organizations lack at least 1 of 5 core vector control competencies. Better control of mosquitoes and ticks is needed to protect people from these costly and deadly diseases.

Want to learn more? Source: https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/vector-borne/

9 Since 2004
Nine new germs spread by mosquitoes and ticks have been discovered or introduced.

3X's
Disease cases from mosquito, tick, and flea bites tripled in the U.S.A. 2004-2016

Risk Increasing, Response Limited:

- Diseases from mosquito and tick bites are occurring in every state; and are moving more germs into new areas causing more people to be at risk. 169 mosquito surveillance traps tested positive for West Nile Virus in the city of Kent during 2017, compared to 11 in 2016 and 7 in 2015.

- Health Department vector control programs face increasing demands to respond to threats. During 2017, the Kent Health Department safely abated over 1,015 mosquito larvae breeding sites within the city of Kent limits covering 200 plus acres.

- More acceptable control methods are needed across the world to prevent and control the viruses and germs caused by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. The Kent Health Department completed 12 mosquito spray applications throughout the city of Kent in 2017 covering more than 385 miles.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone can:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency registered insect repellent: www.epa.gov/insect-repellents

- Take steps to control mosquitoes, ticks and fleas inside and outside the home; and on pets: www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes, www.pestworld.org/10-steps-to-keep-your-pets-pest-free

- Learn more about insect bite disease safeguards: https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prevent-bites.html