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. *55* mosquito surveillance traps tested positive for West Nile Virus in the city of Kent in 2018 and *169* in 2017, compared to *11* in 2016 and *7* in 2015.

- Health Department vector control programs face increasing demands to respond to threats. During 2018, the Kent Health Department safely abated over *520* mosquito larvae breeding sites within the city of Kent limits covering *100* plus acres.

- Appropriate control methods are required across the world to prevent and control the viruses and germs caused by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. The Kent Health Department completed *8* mosquito spray applications throughout the city of Kent in 2018 covering more than *317 miles* of roadway.

Illnesses from Mosquito, Tick, & Flea Bites Climbing

- *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/](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/vector-borne/)

Everyone can:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency registered insect repellent: [www.epa.gov/insect-repellents](http://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](http://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes), [www.pestworld.org/10-steps-to-keep-your-pets-pest-free](http://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](https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prevent-bites.html)