



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
500 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

THOMAS A. FARLEY, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

CAROLINE JOHNSON, MD
Deputy Health Commissioner

STEVEN ALLES, MD, MS
Director, Division of Disease Control

June 6, 2017

Subject: Education for mosquito and tick-borne diseases, promoting a healthy summer for Philadelphia school-aged children

Dear Health Educator/School Nurse or Administrator,

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has developed informational materials to educate children and families about the risks of diseases from mosquitoes and ticks, as well as what they can do to prevent getting sick during the summer. Mosquitoes can spread several viruses and diseases, such as West Nile virus (WNV). Tick-borne illnesses recognized in Philadelphia include Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne illness in Philadelphia, and children are a high-risk group for these diseases. The enclosed materials provide educators with tools concerning mosquito and tick biology, diseases that can be spread, and instructions on ways to decrease the risk of insect bites.

Included in this envelope are:

- Mosquito and tick prevention guide for the teachers
- Vector flyers, to be given to each student, age/grade appropriate

We are asking that these materials be delivered to classrooms or homerooms and for teachers to distribute the vector flyers for their appropriate grade school level to their students and to review the correlating mosquito and tick prevention guide during classtime if able. PDPH is asking teachers to encourage students to share information with their families. If you have any questions, you may email: acd@phila.gov or call: 215 685 6741

Thank you for helping us give kids a safer summer vacation.

Cordially,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Steven Alles, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke that extends across the page.

Steven Alles MD MS
Director, Division of Disease Control
Philadelphia Department of Public Health