

CONTINUED IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON LOCAL VECTOR PROGRAMS

Highlights from July 2021 Survey Among Local Programs

According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials' survey:



65%

of local vector control programs who responded to the survey reported that mosquito surveillance and/or control efforts had returned to normal or near-normal operations, however;

71%

indicated that some disruptions continue to linger. The continued disruptions noted by local vector programs include **staffing disruptions, partnership, and outreach disruptions.**



Strategies Used to Adapt to COVID-19 Challenges

- Moving staff meetings outside!
- Allowing limited number of staff per truck and letting technicians take trucks home.
- Switching outreach and education to online forums.
- Building up in-house arbovirus detection capability.



Lessons Learned

"Back-up plans need to be developed in advance. There was an epidemic outbreak of West Nile Virus last year that was completely overlooked because of COVID-19 and thus future expansion and funding were completely lost."

"Having a [range of skills] enabled staff to readjust work goals based on public health priority. This flexibility is unique and benefited the community during the pandemic."

"Having good connections in your city can assist in locating needed resources such as interns from local schools."

"Educational outreach for bite prevention and all vector program activities should be maintained to counteract an increase in vector-borne disease exposure."