



Teacher Support Material for Tiger Mosquito Assemblies and Vector Inspectors Program

Below is some information that may be shared with your students (where grade appropriate and where time permits) prior to the assembly or viewing the online videos:

“Today we will hear information about a new mosquito recently found in our area. You should know what these mosquitoes look like, how to protect yourself from mosquito bites and how to keep mosquitoes out of your yard. You are going to be a very important part of a scientific study AND, you will have a special job to do. You will be given a collection kit and asked to check around the area where you live for water that might have baby mosquitoes living in it. After you collect them, you will teach your family what to do to get rid of these pests and keep your yard and neighborhood safe.”

Mosquitoes are:

- A living thing
- An animal
- An insect
- A type of fly
- Good food for lots of other critters
- A problem for people (and animals) because they can make us sick

Mosquitoes need:

- Water to lay their eggs and for baby mosquitoes to grow
- Air to breath – even as babies living in the water!
- Food – both boy and girl mosquitoes drink nectar and plant juices
- And sometimes Blood – only girl mosquitoes need blood and only when they lay eggs

You will hear some words used that you may not know:

Vector – an animal that can carry germs (parasites, bacteria, viruses) from a sick animal to another animal or person. These types of germs are usually only moved around by certain kinds of animals like fleas, ticks, mosquitoes or rodents.

Crane fly – is a kind of fly that looks like a giant mosquito but is harmless and doesn't bite.

Standing water – is trapped water that doesn't drain away.

Algae – a green growth that usually develops in standing water and is an important food for baby mosquitoes.

Bacteria – single-celled living things that cannot be seen without a microscope and are important food for baby mosquitoes.

Larva – a growth stage of an insect (such as a mosquito) after it hatches from the egg. Caterpillars are the larva stage of a butterfly. For younger children, we refer to larva as baby mosquitoes.

Pupa – a growth stage of an insect after the larva stage and before it becomes an adult. (A chrysalis is the pupa stage of a butterfly).

Sample – a small amount of some larger thing. The idea of “a sample” seems so simple, but in science the idea of a sample can be more complicated. For the Vector Inspectors Program we hope that the sample you give us shows all the qualities of the larger amount of water found in your yard. If you have a lot of baby mosquitoes in the water in your yard we hope that the water in your sample cup contains at least one baby mosquito. A good way to sample is to take a little water from each place you find it.

Plant trays – saucers, pans or shallow bowls placed under potted plants to catch any water that runs out of the bottom of the plant pot after it is watered. This is a favorite place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs – especially if the water in the trays never dries up or is not dumped out every day.

What is in a name?

The name “**tiger mosquito**” sounds scary. But it is called that because they have bright black and white stripes – not because they bite harder or are meaner. “Zebra mosquito” might be a better name.

After the assembly or online program, please remind students of the following:

- 1) Only survey **one** location (one yard)
- 2) Yes! More than one student can survey the **same** location and each can turn in their own sample
- 3) Only fill your sample cup half full of water to leave air for the baby mosquitoes to breathe
- 4) You must train an adult and have them sign the checklist. Make sure you share your knowledge and the tiger mosquito flier with your family. Put the magnet on the fridge for future use.
- 5) Be sure to fill out the check list completely – name, address surveyed, etc. If you turn in a water sample you should mark on your checklist where you found the water (a bucket, plant tray, old shoe?).
- 6) **Do not put the check list back in the bag with the sample** – it **will** get wet and be hard to read. Staple or tape the checklist to the outside of the bag – no duct tape (super sticky silver stuff), please!
- 7) Please return checklists and samples to the collection bins in front of the school **by the return date** indicated in the upper left corner of the checklist. You will only have a few days to do your survey!
- 8) Each classroom will receive results and rewards in about two weeks following pick up of samples

Please Note:

- **Rewards for participation!** Those who turn in a checklist (whether you found any water or not) get a genuine, scientific, folding, 5X pocket-magnifier!
- Vector Inspectors videos can be viewed at: <http://www.sgvmosquito.org/CitizensScience.html>
- **If you are missing parts** to one of the kits, step on your sample cup during lunch, find you are short a kit for a new student, or want to sample your own yard – call us and we will get spares and spare parts over to you right away!

Questions or feedback? Please feel free to contact Carol Anne Hagele at (626) 814-9466 or email chagele@sgvmosquito.org. Thanks for your time and effort to make this program a success!