

Steps to reduce the spread of the Zika virus

As of April 6, 2016, Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is reporting 2 known cases of the Zika virus in Tennessee. Both cases were travelers to other countries where the Zika virus is known to be transmitted via mosquitoes and/or sexual contact. TDH has created a [Zika webpage](#) to provide information as it becomes available. TDH has issued 2 news releases, in addition to the Zika webpage, thus far on the Zika virus, they can be viewed at: <http://tn.gov/health/news/37893>, and <http://tn.gov/health/news/24132>.

The urgency is for all of us, individually and as agencies, to do whatever we can has been stressed at a multi-agency meeting headed by TDH Commissioner Dreyzehner at the Capitol. The information below can be of assistance in reducing the spread of the Zika Virus.

Some quick points include:

The virus is spread through mosquito bites.

Mosquito repellent is an effective means of prevention from being bit. Preventing the mosquito from biting you is the most effective action.

Several countries are experiencing Zika virus outbreaks so plan your travels carefully especially if you are pregnant.

With large numbers of people traveling to areas where Zika virus disease is now transmitted, TDH anticipates seeing more cases of the disease in our state. To reduce your risk of becoming infected with Zika, West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya or other mosquito-borne illnesses, wear long, loose and light clothing and use insect repellents routinely.

Only 20% of people show symptoms of an infection and they can spread the virus to their partner and other mosquitos when they get bit again.

As an agency, we are asking you to do everything within your means to help educate those you serve.

Taking a proactive approach to eliminate and/or reduce standing water wherever you are during your jobs.

Encourage all staff who work outside to use repellent for protection and prevention.

There are several biological controls for mosquitos including Purple Martins, bats and mosquito loving fish for ponds. Installation of Purple Martin or bat houses at your facilities would assist with controlling mosquitos while offering a great opportunity for discussion and education of your customers.

As individuals, we can all educate our friends and families about the importance of eliminating all unnecessary standing water.

On the down-side, hundreds of mosquitos can hatch from a teaspoon of stagnant water - crazy I know.

On the up-side, mosquitos only travel 2 or 300 hundred yards. Therefore, eliminating their breeding ground from our own yards can have a huge impact.

Purple Martin information and plans to construct houses can be found at:

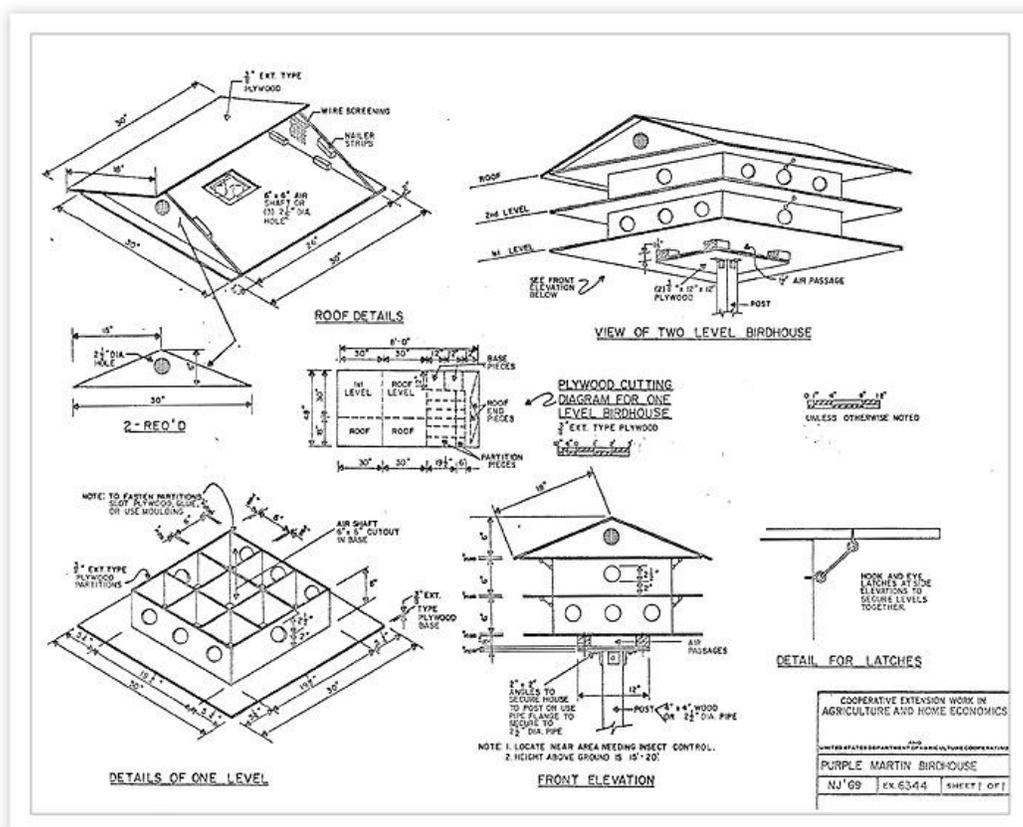
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/purple-martin/>

<http://purplemartinplace.com/free-martin-house-plans-t-14.html>

Bat information and plans to construct houses can be found at:

<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips/Build-a-Bat-House.aspx>

<https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Mammals/Bats.aspx>



Purple Martin house plan above courtesy of USDA

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee’s policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, or in the admission of access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services or activities. Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action inquiries or complaints should be directed to the EEO/AA Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, WR Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, 1-888-867-7455. ADA inquires or complaints should be directed to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Division, WR Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 22nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, 1-866-253-5827. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327429, 610 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of 0.00 per copy. April 2016
	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS PURPLE MARTIN BIRDHOUSE NJ'09 EX-6344 SHEET 1 OF 1