



## MOSQUITO FACT SHEET: *Aedes albopictus* (The Asian Tiger Mosquito)



### **Physical Characteristics:**

Adult female mosquitoes are small and dark in color, appearing black. Has white striped legs and very distinctive white markings at the tip of its maxillary palps. A white stripe runs the length of the head and back (thorax).

### **Biology:**

An invasive mosquito, first detected as an established population within Lucas County in August of 2017. Overwinters in the unhatched egg stage. Eggs are deposited, singly, just above the surface of water in natural containers, such as treeholes, rock pools, and bamboo plants or in artificial containers such as tires, buckets, flower pots, or bird baths. When the water level rises in the containers, the eggs become covered and they hatch. In 7-9 days the aquatic portion of the lifecycle is complete and the adult mosquito emerges. Normal lifespan for the adult mosquito is around three weeks. They will have multiple generations throughout a mosquito season. Their flight range is typically not more than 200 meters and they are very successful in neighborhoods where there are normally few mosquitoes.

### **Host preferences:**

This mosquito is indiscriminate and will feed on both mammals as well as birds and is extremely attracted to humans. They are daytime biters that are very aggressive and quick with feeding, creating a nuisance.

### **Medical Importance:**

*Aedes albopictus* are most well known for being involved in the transmission of dengue, and chikungunya viruses, but has also been found in nature infected with West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and Japanese Encephalitis. It is also believed to be the primary species of concern in the localized transmission of Zika Virus in temperate climates. It can also transmit dog heartworm.