FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOSQUITO DUNKS (AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO CONTROL MOSQUITOS) ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR A SHORT TIME FROM THE MCHD
MORGANTOWN, WV – JUNE 1, 2017

Because mosquitoes breed in water, one of the best ways to control mosquitoes is to eliminate any standing water (even tiny amounts) to prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs in standing water. In many cases, this can be easily done by emptying or disposing of containers that can hold water. However, in some cases standing water can be found in areas or containers that are permanent and/or too large to empty. (examples would be tree holes, birdbaths, roof gutters etc). One way to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in this type of standing water is to introduce a larvicide (a toxin that kills mosquito larvae) into the standing water. Currently, one of the most commonly used larvicides is Bti which is short for Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis. A number of Bti products are sold as “homeowner” products and are easy and safe to use. One of these products is the Mosquito Dunk, nicknamed the “Dunk”.

Dunks look like doughnuts but that’s where the resemblance stops. They float on the water slowly releasing mosquito larvicide into the water for up to 30 days. Dunks have no toxicity to people, are harmless to beneficial insects, pets, birds, fish or wildlife and are approved by the EPA. Dunks are produced by different manufacturers. Be sure to read the instructions and safety precautions that are provided with your product as they may vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. Some of the places that Dunks can be used are:

1. Birdbaths
2. Flowerpots
3. rain barrels
4. roof gutters
5. unused swimming pools
6. water gardens
7. tree holes
It is important to remember that Dunks are most effectively used in places where accumulating standing water cannot be easily emptied or disposed of.

Monongalia County Health Department currently has a limited supply of Dunks that it is making available to the public. For more information about Dunks or how to pick up Dunks from the health department call 304-598-5131. Please call ahead before you come to the health department to make sure that Dunks are still available. The supply is limited.

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