



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Greene County**

# Greene County Public Health Mosquito Program

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **HOW LONG DO MOSQUITOES LIVE?**

The lifespan among different types of mosquitoes vary. The average lifespan of an adult mosquito is about 2 weeks.

### **WHY DO MOSQUITOES FEED ON BLOOD?**

Only female mosquitoes feed on blood. They need to ingest blood so that they can lay their eggs.

### **WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE THE MOSQUITOES IN MY BACK YARD? WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE GETTING BITTEN BY MOSQUITOES?**

The best way to reduce mosquitoes is to reduce or eliminate standing water. Look for any place that can collect and hold water for 4 or more days such as; clogged rain gutters, old tires, unused swimming pools or bird baths, depressions in tarp covers, flower pots, garbage cans or lids, and wheelbarrows. Remove or frequently clean and empty all of these types of items. Store items that may hold water upside down to reduce the potential for standing water. Try to avoid being outside at dawn and dusk. Mosquitoes are most active during these times. Dress in light, loose-fitting clothing. If you are out at dawn or dusk, wear long sleeves and pants. Also, citronella candles, and other candles that produce smoke, will help repel mosquitoes.

### **I FOUND A DEAD BIRD DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?**

If the bird is a crow or blue jay, call the Health District and report the location and address of the dead bird. Staff will maintain a record of the location of the dead bird for surveillance purposes during the operation of the mosquito control program. All dead birds may be placed in a sealed plastic bag and disposed of in the normal garbage collection.

### **DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT SPRAY FOR MOSQUITOES?**

The Health District's mosquito control program is based upon industry standards for best practices. The Health District uses an Integrated Pest Management approach to reduce and eliminate the mosquito population.

Staff works with homeowners and the jurisdictions in which they live to eliminate areas that retain water where mosquitoes breed. The Health District uses both larvicide and adulticide or "spraying" as another part of our control method. Larvicides are used in areas where stagnant water occurs and mosquito eggs can hatch. The larvicide will prevent the mosquito eggs from hatching into mosquitoes. The adulticide fog is used as a last resort to decrease the adult population within an area or neighborhood. Areas that reported either high mosquito counts or contained mosquitoes that have tested positive for the West Nile Virus are monitored frequently and the appropriate control measures are used to lower the mosquito population. The Health District is under contract

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with various jurisdictions to provide this program. Contact Environmental Health Services at 937-374-5606 or 1-866-858-3588 to verify that your neighborhood is included.

### **WHAT DISEASES ARE TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOES?**

Mosquitoes transmit diseases, such as malaria, encephalitis, yellow fever, dengue fever and West Nile Virus. Other diseases transmitted through the human blood stream – most notably HIV – cannot survive inside a mosquito and therefore, cannot be transmitted.