

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 14, 2013

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DRAIN AND COVER TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

PENSACOLA, FL – The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (DOH-Escambia) advises the public to Drain and Cover to protect against mosquitoes. Drain standing water in and around your home to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs, and cover your body to protect against bites. Mosquitoes are known carriers of West Nile Virus, and other disease-causing viruses.

“Given the recent rains we have experienced, mosquitoes may be more prevalent in the upcoming weeks,” says DOH-Escambia Director, Dr. John J. Lanza. “Individuals should do all they can to avoid mosquito bites, in order to prevent the spread of infections carried by the insect.”

Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing or slow-moving water. Even one teaspoon of water is adequate for breeding. Mosquitoes are most active during evenings, nighttime and the dawn hours. Being outdoors at these times increases people’s chances of being bitten unless they cover their skin with clothes and/or an effective mosquito repellent.

To protect against mosquito bites, remember to Drain and Cover.

Drain standing water.

- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected. Water held in open containers in your house is also a potential breeding location for mosquitoes.
- Discard old tires, bottles, pots, broken appliances and other items that aren’t being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pets’ water bowls at least twice a week.
- When protecting boats and vehicles from rain, ensure that tarps don’t accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and keep them adequately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover skin with clothing or repellent and cover doors and windows.

- Clothing - Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves when mosquitoes are most prevalent.
- Use repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Always use repellents according to the label. Using too much repellent doesn’t make it work better or last longer.
- Re-apply mosquito repellent as often as needed to prevent mosquito landings and bites.
- When using repellent on children, apply to your hands first and then rub on their arms and legs.
- Instead of repellent, use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- Place screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios. Always repair broken screens.

For more information contact the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County at 850-595-6700 or visit www.EscambiaHealth.com. ###

Two attachments follow.

Feeling the sting of mosquitoes?



Then it's time to:

DRAIN
AND
COVER

A collection of blue and white icons representing mosquito prevention. At the top, a blue tarp is shown with water being drained. Below the main text, there is a white shirt and blue pants, a blue bottle of 'Skeeter No More' repellent, and a blue house with a white screen on the porch.

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business. Protect yourself from mosquito bites and diseases they carry.

DRAIN STANDING WATER.

DRAIN: Garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

DISCARD: Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY AND CLEAN: Birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT: Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER YOUR SKIN.

CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

COVER DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS. Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.



Examples:

OFF! 15% or 30 % DEET

Repel 15% Picaridin or 23% DEET



Robert R. Betts, Division Manager
Mosquito Control Division
Community & Environment Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Keith Wilkins, REP, Director
Community & Environment Department

FROM: Robert R. Betts, Division Manager
Mosquito Control Division

DATE: June 11, 2013

RE: Anticipated Mosquito Activity and Cautionary Avoidance Recommendations for Public

From the effects of the past few days' heavy rainfall, the division's surveillance monitoring indicates that some pooling and ponding of flood waters may produce increased mosquito breeding microhabitats. The woodland bog and grassy area mosquitoes will seek to lay their eggs in these abundant water sources over the course of the next few days. New broods will take a week or so before posing nuisances to people and animals.

It is important to understand the mosquito life cycle in that after the female mosquitoes lay their eggs in these flooded microhabitats, their behaviors will be characterized by host-seeking. Typically seeking birds as their target hosts, they may also be attracted to humans. After each egg-laying session, female mosquitoes must replenish their protein supplies by blood-feeding actions. Under suitable conditions, this cycle is repeated many times until the female mosquitoes die.

People are cautioned to avoid mosquitoes at this time forward and throughout the warm months of the year. Animals, such as dogs, cats and horses may be bitten by mosquitoes as well, though these animals may be protected by using vaccines and other methods as prescribed by and administered by qualified veterinarians. Consult your veterinarian for methods to protect animals from mosquito-borne diseases.

People may not be so easily protected by vaccines. Rather we must learn to take actions that will minimize our exposure to eager female mosquitoes seeking to bite us. Since we know that mosquitoes are active in the pre-dawn and pre-dusk hours, we should avoid outdoor activity at these times. If we must be outdoors, then we must cover our exposed bare skin with appropriate clothing or learn to use repellents effectively. Use repellents as directed on the product's label. Improper use will not provide the protection we expect or need. Emptying containers in our yards will protect us from some species that commonly breed and bite us there. It is awareness and action that protects us all.