



# Mosquito Prevention and Protection



## Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes



### Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate. All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)



### Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.



### Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. Four repellents that are approved and recommended are:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol, or PMD)
- IR3535

### Here are some rules to follow when using repellents:

- Read the directions on the label carefully before applying.
- Apply repellent sparingly, only to exposed skin (not on clothing).
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips: do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them into the eyes.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that DEET-based repellents can be used on children as young as two months of age. Generally, the AAP recommends concentrations of 10% or less, unless disease risk is imminent, then concentration can be increased to 30% or less.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Repellents can be used by pregnant or nursing women. The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for repellent use by pregnant or nursing women.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin.
- Use repellent sparingly and reapply as needed. Saturation does not increase efficacy.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.
- If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician.



**Carteret Health Department  
Memorial Municipal Building  
61 Cooke Avenue  
Carteret, New Jersey 07008**

**www.carteret.net  
(732) 541-3890**



## A PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY

*from the Office of Mayor Dan Reiman & the Carteret Health Department*

# CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



As summer approaches, and concerns over the Zika virus grow, the Office of Mayor Dan Reiman and the Carteret Health Department are pleased to pass along to residents a few suggestions about how to reduce the mosquito population in our community.

The Zika virus is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a tropical, urban-dwelling mosquito. Although this species of mosquito has occasionally been found in New Jersey in very small numbers, it is unlikely to establish a permanent population in the state due to our moderate climate. But with concern growing about the Zika virus, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is working closely with county mosquito agencies (which have the lead for mosquito control in New Jersey) and local officials to ensure that they have the resources needed to identify and, if found, control this mosquito.

The most effective way to reduce much of the mosquito population (including the *Aedes aegypti* and its important relative the Asian tiger mosquito) is to eliminate their breeding grounds – standing water. Even a bottle cap filled with water can be an attractive mosquito breeding ground as they are both known as container breeders and thus prefer to lay their eggs in buckets, tires, and saucers under potted plants, for example.

You can help support the work of your county mosquito agencies by a few, easy-to-follow steps:

- Be alert for areas of standing water as local and county officials perform their regular duties throughout the community.
- Drain, if possible, any sources of standing water.
- If standing water cannot be drained, report those locations to a point person in your municipal organization who can coordinate with your county mosquito control office to treat standing water that cannot be drained.
- Refer friends and neighbors to the “DEP FACT SHEET: Zika virus & New Jersey mosquitoes” which is available at DEP’s web site at: [www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito/docs/zika-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito/docs/zika-fact-sheet.pdf)

In addition, encourage your neighbors to join in the effort to control the mosquito population and:

- Eliminate sources of standing water to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds on your property.
- Appropriately treat ornamental ponds to prevent mosquito breeding. Mosquito “dunks,” an easy to use biological larvicide (which is not hazardous to humans or other wildlife) for use in standing water that cannot be drained are available at most home improvement stores, hardware stores, or home and garden centers for about \$1.00 each.
- Empty birdbaths at least once a week.
- Keep handy the “DEP FACT SHEET: Zika virus & New Jersey mosquitoes,” which is available at the DEP’s web site at:

[www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito/docs/zika-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito/docs/zika-fact-sheet.pdf)