

ZIKA VIRUS UPDATES

The City of Stone Mountain promotes public health and wellness. In an effort to offer a means by which to inform the public, the City encourages those that are interested in updates on the Zika Virus to visit the DeKalb County Public Health Office of Epidemiology and Statistics webpage. Please access the link below for information.

<http://dekalbhealth.net/hap/epidemiology-and-statistics/zika-virus-updates/>

The Centers for Disease control also offers information on the virus. The link for CDC information is provided at the close of this publication.

TIPS FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL*

- You, your neighbors, and the community can also take steps to reduce mosquitoes in and around your home and in your neighborhood.

Conduct mosquito surveillance

Mosquito control plans include steps that are taken before control efforts begin and before people start getting sick with a virus spread by mosquitoes. Professionals need to understand what types and numbers of mosquitoes are in an area. In order to find out this information, mosquito control experts conduct surveillance. Surveillance activities can include:

- Monitoring places where adult mosquitoes lay eggs and where young mosquitoes can be found
- Tracking mosquito populations and the viruses they may be carrying
- Determining if EPA-registered insecticides will be effective

These activities help professionals determine if, when, and where control activities are needed to manage mosquito populations before people start getting sick. If professionals discover that local mosquitoes are carrying viruses (like dengue, Zika, or others), they start implementing other activities identified in their mosquito control plans.

Remove places where mosquitoes lay eggs

Removing places where mosquitoes lay eggs is an important step. Mosquitoes lay eggs near water because young mosquitoes need water to survive. Professionals and the public can remove standing water.

- Professionals at local government agencies and mosquito control districts may collect and dispose of illegally dumped tires, clean up and maintain public spaces like parks and greenways, and clean up illegal dumps and roadside trash.
- You, your neighbors, and community can remove standing water. Once a week, items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools birdbaths, flower pot saucers, and trash containers should be emptied and scrubbed, turned over, covered, or thrown away.
- If needed, a community clean up event can be held to remove large items like tires that collect water.

Control young mosquitoes

Once mosquito eggs hatch, they become larvae and then pupae. Both larvae and pupae live in standing water. Dumping or removing standing water in and around your home is one way to control young

mosquitoes. For standing water that cannot be dumped or drained, a larvicide can be used to kill larvae. Larvicides are products used to kill young mosquitoes before they become biting adults. The public and professionals can use US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered larvicides according to label instructions.

- Professionals treat water-holding structures and containers in public places, like storm drains or urns in cemeteries. They may also treat standing water on private property as part of a neighborhood cleanup campaign.
- People can treat fountains, septic tanks, and pool covers that hold water with larvicides.

Controlling young mosquitoes before they become adults, can minimize widespread use of insecticides that kill adult mosquitoes.

Control adult mosquitoes

Adult mosquitoes can spread viruses (like dengue, Zika, or others) that make you sick. When surveillance activities show that adult mosquito populations are increasing or that they are spreading viruses, professionals may decide to apply adulticides to kill adult mosquitoes. Adulticides help to reduce the number of mosquitoes in an area and reduce the risk that people will get sick. The public and professionals can use US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered adulticides according to label instructions.

- If mosquitoes are spreading viruses over larger areas, professionals spray adulticides by using backpack sprayers, trucks, or airplanes.
- People can buy adulticides and use them inside and outside their homes.

*This and more information is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html>