

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

How long do mosquitos live?

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

Why do mosquitos bite?

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

What diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes?

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

How can I reduce mosquitos at my house, and what can I do to keep from getting bitten?

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, flowerpots, garbage cans or lids, and wheelbarrows. Remove or frequently clean and empty all 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.

Does Greene County Public Health spray 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 work with homeowners and their cities/townships to eliminate areas that retain water where mosquitoes breed. The Health District uses both larvicide and adulticide (or "spraying") as part of our control methods.

Larvicides are used in areas where stagnant water occurs, and mosquito eggs can hatch. The larvicide prevents mosquito eggs from hatching. Adulticide is sprayed only as a last resort to decrease the adult population within an area or neighborhood. Areas that reported either high mosquito counts or that contained mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus are monitored frequently. Then, appropriate control measures are used to lower the mosquito population. The Health District is under contract with various jurisdictions to provide this program. Contact Environmental Health Services at 937-374-5661 ehpermits@greenecophoh.gov to determine if your city/township is included.

I heard that dead birds could be a sign of West Nile Virus. I found a dead bird. Should I report it to the Health District?

Because West Nile Virus is now understood to be endemic in the bird population, the Health District no longer collects, tests, or logs dead birds. All dead birds should be placed in a sealed plastic bag and disposed of in the normal garbage collection.