



NEWS RELEASE Mobile County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobile County Health Department to resume mosquito spraying

The Mobile County Health Department will resume seasonal countywide spraying for mosquito control as weather conditions permit. Spray activities will primarily be conducted in early evening hours, typically from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., unless otherwise warranted.

The trucks used for spray operations dispense low volumes of insecticides through variable flow technology at vehicle speeds up to 20 mph. The insecticides have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use in mosquito control and are applied consistent with the manufacturers' label requirements.

As a precaution, individuals are asked not to approach a spray truck while it is operating. Individuals engaged in beekeeping activities and those who are allergic to insecticides used for mosquito control who have not been recently contacted by the Health Department should notify the agency's Vector Control Division by calling 690-8124.

How to avoid getting 'bugged' by mosquitoes

- Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by emptying all water from old tires, cans, jars, buckets, drums, plastic wading pools, boats, tarps, toys, and other containers.
- Because mosquitoes are more active at dusk and dawn, try to limit outdoor activities during these times.
- Use a good mosquito repellent on exposed areas. Some of the most reliable repellants contain the chemical DEET. Repellents containing DEET in concentrations up to 30 percent can be used on children as young as two months. All repellants should be used in accordance with label instructions
- Long sleeves and long pants used with a mosquito repellent help to limit bites.
- Wear light-colored clothing because dark-colored clothing may help attract unwanted insects.
- Wear a light-colored hat or a cap.
- Be aware that scented cosmetics may also attract insects.
- Mosquito bites can be treated with calamine and menthol lotions. Cortisone creams and oral antihistamines are available as over-the-counter medications that may reduce itching. Bites to children should be watched for secondary infections that might need to be treated by a physician.

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