



Fight The Bite

The First Line Of Defense

West Nile Virus

Spraying In Your Community

In your community, local elected officials could make the decision to spray a pesticide to kill infected mosquitoes. Facts regarding various pesticides can be found at www.cdc.gov and linked sites.

Because pesticides are inherently toxic, no pesticide is absolutely risk free. The likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as result of exposure to any pesticide depends primarily on the amount of pesticide which a person contacts and the amount of time the person is in contact with that pesticide. In addition, a person's age, sex, genetic makeup, lifestyle and general health characteristics can affect his or her likelihood of experiencing adverse health effects as result of exposure to pesticides.

Any pesticide, when used according to label directions, is generally safe. Although your chance of experiencing any health effect from spraying is quite low, the following common sense steps will help you reduce possible exposures to insecticides during spraying. You might want to consider these steps if you are particularly sensitive to chemicals.

- If possible, remain inside whenever spraying takes place.
- Keep children inside during spraying and for about one hour after spraying.
- Close windows and doors and turn off your air conditioning (or set it to circulate indoor air) before spraying begins.
- If you must remain outside, avoid eye contact with the spray. If you get insecticide in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water or eye drops.
- Wash exposed skin surfaces with soap and water if you come in contact with the insecticide.
- Rinse homegrown fruits and vegetables thoroughly with water before cooking or eating.
- Cover outdoor tables and play equipment or wash them with soap and water after they have been sprayed.
- Bring laundry and toys inside before spraying begins. *Wash with soap and water if exposed to insecticide during spraying.*
- Bring pets inside and cover ornamental fishponds to avoid direct exposure.
- Consult your doctor if you think you are experiencing health effects from spraying.
- If you know of specific mosquito control problems, call your local city or county public works director, City Hall, or Board of Supervisors.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Public Health — The First Line of Defense

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