

AFTER THE FLOOD: MOSQUITOES

FACT SHEET

Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance—some are capable of carrying disease. After flood waters begin to recede, take steps to reduce standing water on your property that could become mosquito breeding grounds.

Unlike birds or other insects, most mosquitoes do not fly very far and tend to stay close to their breeding sites. You most likely to be bitten by a mosquito from your own backyard.

How to Protect Yourself

Bite prevention is the best way to avoid diseases carried by mosquitoes.

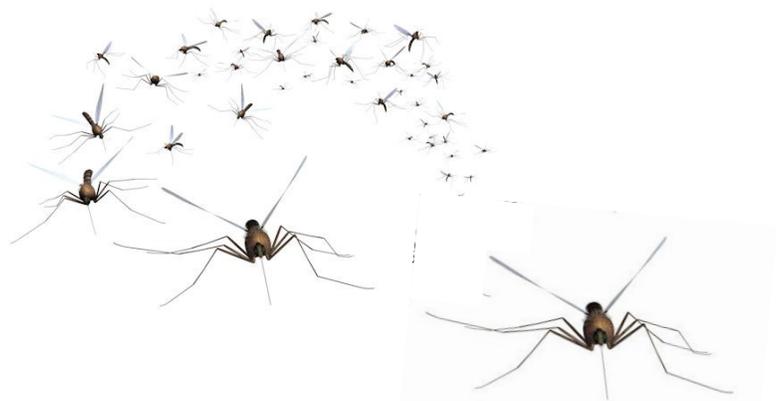
- Remain indoors during peak mosquito times: dawn, dusk, and early evening.
- When outside, try to wear long sleeves and long pants.
- Cover infant carriers with mosquito netting.
- Use insect repellent; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends conventional repellents containing DEET or Picardin. Biopesticide repellents derived from natural ingredients, such as oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, are also effective.



Reducing the Mosquito Population

Cutting down on the number of mosquitoes around your home can reduce your risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. Taking the following actions can reduce the mosquito population around your home.

- Get rid of standing water to reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay eggs.
- Empty containers that collect water such as old tires, flower pots, wheelbarrows, and even small containers such as bottle tops.
- Change water in bird baths and pet water dishes at least once a week.
- Immediately remove water that collects on pool covers and turn over wading pools when not in use.
- Unclog rain gutters.
- Make sure drainage ditches are not clogged.



For more information, contact CCHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program at 452-0881 x310 or visit www.cchdmt.org or www.cdc.gov.