

BOARD of HEALTH Policy on Mosquitos and Tips for Self-Protection

At its June 23, 2021 meeting, the Hamilton Board of Health affirmed a long-standing policy based on not finding sufficient evidence that truck spraying is an effective means of reducing the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in humans. Personal protection measures and draining standing water in your yard, as described below, are your best protection against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. Currently and for the foreseeable future unless circumstances change, e.g., local human cases of EEE, the Board has no plans to conduct aerial or ground-based spraying of larvicides or adulticides to kill mosquito larvae or adult mosquitoes.

Tips to Prevent Mosquito Bites in Mosquito Season

The Hamilton Board of Health offers the following preventative measures to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases.

AVOID MOSQUITO BITES

- Minimize time spent outdoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening, during peak mosquito activity.
- If you must be outside during peak mosquito-biting time, wear long sleeves and pants.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin and clothing.
 - Choose a repellent that provides protection for the amount of time that you will be outdoors. Read the label and reapply as needed. Generally, higher percentage of active ingredients last longer, but are otherwise not more effective.
 - DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months of age. Children older than two months should use products with DEET concentrations of 30% or less. Always read the product label to determine the percentage of DEET, and reapply as needed.
 - Some natural products, such as oil of lemon eucalyptus, are as effective as low concentrations of DEET, though not as long-lasting.
 - Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin.
- Install or repair window and door screens.
- Use mosquito netting over infant carriers when outdoors.

REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING AREAS BY REMOVING STANDING WATER

- At least once or twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, tarps, buckets, barrels, and cans.
- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
- Remove discarded tires, and other items that could collect water.
 - Tires are accepted at the DPW Yard on “Ewaste” days.
- Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or porches.