

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM NO. 17

WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles Unified School District Pest of the Month Program No. 15 presented information of West Nile Virus (WNV). Since that time, there have been a number of developments pertaining to the epidemiology of this disease in California. Also, I have received a number of inquiries from District employees regarding insect repellents that can be used to ward off mosquitoes that vector this disease. As a result of these inquiries it became necessary to issue this pest of the month program.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

For updated information on West Nile Virus, visit the California WNV website at www.westnile.ca.gov

National information can be obtained at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov

Additional information can be obtained from the University of California, Davis website at <http://vector.ucdavis.edu/arbo.html>

CURRENT STATUS

Current information on West Nile Virus in southern California is as follows:

- Five new cases (there is a total of six cases over the past few weeks) of WNV were confirmed in San Bernardino County on Friday, June 18, 2004. The most recent case was from Fontana.
- A 64-year old woman, a 19 year-old man and three boys – one 17 and two 12 year olds – all infected in May 2004, have since recovered from the disease.
- All five of the above victims developed muscle aches, high fever, headaches, and other flu-like symptoms.
- WNV infection symptoms include the development of a rash. Some rashes show up as splotchy discolorations, while others consist of small bumps that cover the entire body.

SOME FACTS ON HOW YOU CAN GET WNV AND HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM THIS DISEASE.

- West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans and animals (horses and other equines) by mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes acquire the virus after feeding on infected birds.
- No human to human spread of the disease has been reported.
- The virus cannot be transmitted through dead birds. Public health officials do not recommend handling bird carcasses. If you must handle bird carcasses, use gloves and place the carcass in a sealed plastic bag.
- Crows are one of the common bird frequently found dead as a result of this disease.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens with holes in them.
- Eliminate all unnecessary standing water on your property.
- Add mosquito fish to outdoor fish ponds. These fish can be obtained free of charge from the county health department and/or the local vector control district.
- Where possible it is recommended that you do not spend time outdoors during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- If you have to be outdoors during these times, wear clothing that cover the legs and arms and use a mosquito repellent.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live.

MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

PROTECTION TIMES OF TESTED MOSQUITO REPELLENTS.

The most recent information that is available on mosquito repellents are presented in Table 1. **LET ME BE AS CLEAR AS I CAN BE HERE. NEITHER I NOR LAUSD RECOMMEND AND/OR ENDORSE ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS.** This is unbiased information that is being provided to you. I did not have anything to do with developing this information. The rating of these materials was done by scientists elsewhere. **SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ANY OF THESE MATERIALS,**

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR.

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Table 1. Protection Times of Tested Mosquito Repellents

Products	Active Ingredient	Average Complete Protection Time
OFF! Deep Woods	23.8% DEET	5 hours
Sawyer Controlled Release	20% DEET	4 hours
OFF! Skintastic	6.65% DEET	2 hours
Bite Blocker for Kids	2% Soybean Oil ← <i>Alternative to DEET</i>	1.5 hours
OFF! Skintastic for Kids	4.75% DEET	1.5 hours
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard Plus	7.5% IR3535	23 minutes
Natrapel	10% Citronella	20 minutes
Herbal Armor	12% Citronella; 2.5% peppermint oil; 2% cedar oil; 1% lemongrass oil; 0.05% geranium oil	19 minutes
Green Ban for People	10% Citronella; 2% peppermint oil	14 minutes
Buzz Away	5% Citronella	14 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard	0.1% Citronella	10 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil	Active Ingredient not known	10 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Moisturizing Suncare	0.05% Citronella	3 minutes
Gone Original Wristband	9.5% DEET	0
Repello Wristband	9.5% DEET	0
Gone Plus Repelling Wristband	25% Citronella	0