

HYDE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MOSQUITO ALERT

In the aftermath of subtropical storm Ida last week, above average temperatures, and unusually high tides, the mosquito populations have increased in some parts of Hyde County. Low lying areas in close proximity to the marshes are experiencing the highest numbers. Spraying for adult mosquitoes was terminated in October due to the low numbers of mosquitoes and cooler temperatures.

The Health Department has decided not to restart the spraying operations at this time. The long range forecast calls for continued fronts with high percentage of rain chances and cooler temperatures especially at night which are not conducive for spraying. As you are aware, any time we have daytime temps in the 50's in Hyde County there will probably be some mosquitoes. Their populations are more of a nuisance during this time of year than during the spring and summer when they can reach epidemic proportions. The Health Department will continue to monitor the situation and restart the spraying if necessary.

Everyone should take precautions including eliminating mosquito breeding places. Low lying areas are still experiencing flooding due to the high tides. This will continue until the wind shifts and the sound waters recede. Mosquito larvae in these waters are greatly reduced by aquatic species which feed on them. The problem areas are shallow stagnated pools after flood waters recede. Mosquito dunks can be placed in these areas. The Health Department has a limited number of these dunks available for the public. Homeowners should check anything that can hold water and dump it, i.e. tarps, cans, flower pots, old tires etc.

Peak times for mosquito activity are at dusk and dawn. Avoid these times if at all possible. If you must be outside during these times, wear light-colored clothing with long sleeves and pants. Wear a mosquito repellent containing 30% DEET. Apply only to exposed parts of your body. Follow label directions carefully and never apply to the face and eyes. A 30% DEET repellent may be used by anyone over 2 months of age.

If you have any questions contact the Hyde County Health Department, (252) 926-4380.