



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Hyde County, North Carolina

Hyde Health Officials Urge Residents to Take Precautions Against Mosquitoes

SWAN QUARTER, NC - Due to recent high temperatures, high humidity and high tide levels, the population of mosquitoes observed in Hyde County is above average for this time of the year. Following guidelines established by EPA for proper application, the Hyde County Health Department is currently spraying every other night as conditions warrant, and will continue to do so as long as mosquito breeding conditions continue. The application swath is 300 feet wide (150 feet on either side of the highway). Residents who live 150 feet or more from the highway may request the Health Department to go on their property and spray for mosquitoes.

According to Wesley P. Smith, Director of the Hyde County Health Department, "Residents need to know that they can make their yards less friendly for disease-carrying insects as well as know what they can do to prevent being bitten."

The Hyde County Health Department offers the following tips for making homes and yards less mosquito-friendly:

- Keep grass short, and remove plants that attract animals such as deer and rodents;
- Pour out standing water, and remove containers that can hold water;
- Keep gutters clean and in good repair;
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets and change the water in bird baths and pet bowls at least twice a week; and
- Check window and door screens.

Exposure to mosquitoes can be limited by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks. Because of above average populations of mosquitoes, Hyde County Health Department officials strongly encourage residents to limit outside activity as much as possible.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends several repellents against mosquitoes - DEET, picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Consumers should look for products that contain the CDC-recommended ingredients, and should read and follow all label instructions.

"The fact is that most repellents are safe for use on children 2 months of age and up, except oil of lemon eucalyptus, which should not be used on children under the age of 3. That's why it is always important to read and follow all label directions," said Hugh Watson, Environmental Health Programs Coordinator.

For additional information about preventing mosquito and tick bites, go to the following websites:
www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm or www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/arbovirus.

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