

FACT SHEET PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FROM MOSQUITOES

The following information will help you to protect yourself and your family from mosquito and other insect bites.



Adult Mosquito

HOW DO MOSQUITOES LIVE?

Mosquitoes and other biting insects are found all over the world. Only female mosquitoes bite humans. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar. Female mosquitoes require a bloodmeal to produce eggs.



Larval Mosquitoes

To develop, mosquitoes require an environment of standing water (i.e., ditches, ponds, pools, and flooded containers). The mosquito larvae or “wigglers” live and develop in the water and emerge as adults after about 1-3 weeks, depending on the temperature.

WHEN AND WHERE DO MOSQUITOES BITE?

Mosquito and other insect bites can occur right outside your door at anytime of the day or night. Backyard decks, playgrounds, swimming pools, parks, sports fields and tennis courts – all are prime locations for biting insects.

MOSQUITOES CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES.

Mosquitoes can carry many serious diseases, such as encephalitis. There are no approved human vaccines for most forms of encephalitis.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.

Adults and children should take the following steps to protect themselves from biting insects:

- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET (available at the PX, shoppettes, or through military supply channels).
- Carefully read and follow ALL label directions for safe application.
- Dress in light-colored clothes. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants for maximum protection.

- If possible, stay away from heavy woods, high grassy areas and standing water.
- If bitten by any insect, treat the bite site with topical antibiotic, watch for rashes or flu-like symptoms for the next few weeks. Consult a doctor if symptoms develop.
- Always keep insect repellents out of the reach of small children. Do not apply DEET to a child's lips, mouth, hands, or eyes. Take precautions to help children avoid scratching bites.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN APPLYING DEET INSECT REPELLENTS.

Apply to all exposed skin areas and/or clothing **only as directed on the product label.**

DO'S

- Do use aerosols or pump sprays for skin and for treating clothing. These products provide even application.
- Do use repellent liquids, creams, lotions, or sticks to apply more precisely to exposed skin.
- Do wash or shower with soap and warm water after your outdoor activity, to avoid any discomfort or from over application to the skin.
- Do always keep insect repellents out of the reach of small children.

DON'TS

- DO NOT apply to children under 3 years old.
- DO NOT apply to eyes, lips, or mouth or over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- DO NOT over apply or saturate skin or clothing.
- DO NOT apply to skin under clothing.
- DO NOT apply more often than directed on the product label.

CAMP DARBY COMMUNITY MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

The Department of Public Works at Camp Darby has an active mosquito surveillance and control program. This Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program consists of surveillance for larval and adult mosquitoes, establishment of action thresholds, and selection of appropriate control strategies, using the best available technology.

This IPM program consists of actively monitoring mosquito populations at both Camp Darby and Leghorn Army Depot. This information is used to develop pest management strategies that are practical and effective to protect public health and the environment and improve the quality of life for military and civilian residents.