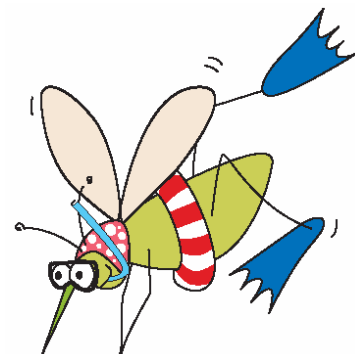


JUNE IS MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE MONTH

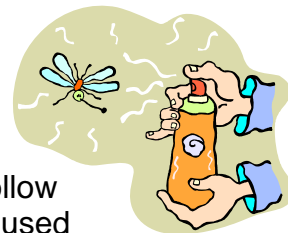
Don't Let Mosquitoes Have a Party in Your Backyard!

The weather is getting warmer and the mosquitoes are starting to become a nuisance. Don't let mosquitoes keep you from doing what you love to do. Protect yourself by following these tips from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



① USE INSECT REPELLENT

Remember to put insect repellent on exposed skin when you are outside. When you are shopping for a repellent to use, be sure to look for a repellent that will provide the most protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors. Usually the more active the ingredient in the product, such as DEET, the longer it will provide protection. Be sure to read and follow the instructions on the repellent before applying. Mosquito netting can be used over infant carriers instead of repellent.



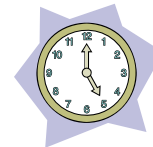
② WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Long sleeves, pants, and socks can help protect you from mosquitoes. If the clothes are thin enough, it is possible that mosquitoes may be able to bite through the clothing. You may want to spray your clothes with insect repellent for extra protection. Never put the insect repellent on skin underneath clothes.



③ KNOW PEAK MOSQUITO HOURS

Mosquitoes are most active during the hours between dawn and dusk. You may want to avoid or limit your time outdoors during this time period.



④ MOSQUITO-PROOF YOUR HOME

Keep mosquitoes out of your home by having tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors. If the screens are torn, make sure to repair them for maximum protection from mosquitoes.

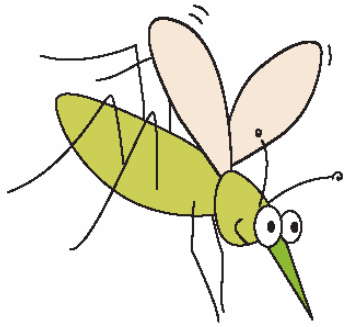


⑤ REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS

Mosquitoes love standing water. You can eliminate the number of mosquitoes by draining their sources of standing water, which is where they lay their eggs and breed. Be sure to remove items in your yard that collect water such as empty containers and old tires, clean your gutters, change the water in bird baths and wading pools, clean pools and garden ponds, and empty water from flower pots and swimming pool covers.

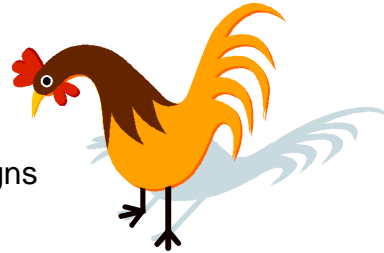


Scott County Mosquito Surveillance Program



The Scott County Health Department has been keeping track of mosquitoes through an Iowa State University program since the late 1970's. Mosquitoes are monitored throughout Iowa to serve as an early warning system for the presence of West Nile Virus (mosquito-borne encephalitis) in communities. In Scott County, light traps are used in four separate locations to trap mosquitoes in the summer. They are then collected each week and sent to Iowa State University for counting and identification.

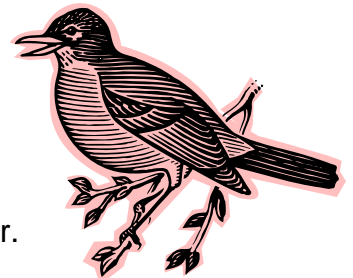
Another method of surveillance through the Iowa State University program is to check for West Nile Virus in Scott County through a flock of sentinel chickens. Every week blood samples are collected from the chickens. The blood is then sent to the University Hygienic Laboratory to be analyzed for signs that mosquitoes carrying encephalitis have bitten the chickens.



If the results of either surveillance efforts show that West Nile Virus is in our community, the Iowa Department of Public Health may decide to issue a warning to residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes.

The Scott County Health Department no longer collects dead birds to analyze them for signs of West Nile Virus. If you find a dead bird, simply dispose of it using the following guidelines:

- Avoid touching the dead bird with your bare hands. Instead, use a shovel, disposable gloves, or a plastic bag.
- Double bag the bird carcass.
- Place the carcass in your regular trash for garbage removal.
- Wash your hands immediately after disposal with soap and warm water.



There is no evidence that West Nile Virus can be transferred by handling dead birds. However, proper handling of any dead animal is necessary to reduce the possibility of any health risk.

DID YOU KNOW...

Those who are 50 years old and older are at the highest risk of severe illness and death from West Nile Virus.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other Scott County Health Department press releases electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our website at: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health.

Funds Available to Scott County Residents for Water Well Services

The Scott County Health Department receives money from the Grants to Counties program to help residents pay for the cost of well abandonment, rehabilitation, and water sampling. This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health. For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563/326-8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form which can be found at: http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php.

