

What else can I do?

If you'll be in a known high mosquito area, wear socks, shoes, light-colored long pants and long sleeved shirts.

Use mosquito repellants containing DEET sparingly on children before they play outdoors. Be sure to wash children with soap & water when they come back in the house, and **never** apply DEET to their faces or hands. Make sure you read and follow the label directions carefully.

What about chemicals?

Larvicides are chemicals and other materials that kill mosquito larvae. Larvicides can be added to areas of standing water, such as pool covers, ditches, and low-lying areas that hold water for more than 1 week. Larvicides include chemical larvicides, **Altosid** & **Temephos**, and biological larvicides, **Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis** (also known as **Bti**) & **Bacillus sphaericus (Bs)**. **Chemical larvicides must be applied by certified applicators.**

Larvicides are more effective than chemicals designed to kill adult mosquitoes, adulticides. Using adulticides involves spraying from specially outfitted small trucks or airplanes, and is weather & wind affected. Adulticiding may be used best in helping to control an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease.



For More Information...

Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program

Bureau for Public Health
West Virginia Department of Health
and Human Resources
350 Capitol Street, Room 125
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Phone: 304-558-5358
Toll free: 800-423-1271

OR

Contact your local health department

Mosquitoes... You Your Children Your Community



How to help **STOP**
mosquito problems and
the diseases they carry



Why should I worry about mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes can be annoying, buzzing around and biting people, but they also represent a threat to human health. Every time a mosquito “bites” you, and it’s always a female and she’s really feeding, there’s a chance she’ll leave you with a little “thank you gift...” one of several viral diseases.

What diseases can mosquitoes carry and spread?

Mosquitoes can carry a group of viruses known as **arboviruses** that are responsible for several kinds of viral encephalitis, including **LaCrosse encephalitis**. Every year, especially during the summer and fall months, LaCrosse encephalitis is spread by infected mosquitoes and mainly affects children. About 50 cases of LaCrosse encephalitis are reported in West Virginia each year.

Mosquitoes can also carry and spread West Nile Virus, which hits the elderly the hardest. Although there have been no reports of West Nile Virus in West Virginia to date, state and local health officials expect it to be found in 2002.

What can I do to reduce the risk of LaCrosse encephalitis and other diseases carried by mosquitoes?

Mosquito control is the best way to reduce the risk of all diseases carried by mosquitoes. Mosquito control is a public and individual responsibility.

What is mosquito control?

Basically, it’s making mosquitoes **unwelcome** in your yard, neighborhood and community... don’t let them make themselves “at home” in your area. Start **wherever** water happens to be found.

Mosquitoes need water to breed and survive as they grow from eggs to bloodsucking adults. There are 4 stages in their life cycle... each one looks different and is easy to recognize. The little lady to the right is laying **eggs... an egg raft**.



Once eggs have been laid in water, a puddle, an old jar or tire, house gutters, etc., the next stage in the life of a mosquito occurs... **larvae** emerge 24-48 hours after the eggs have been laid. Larvae are also called “**wigglers**” because you can see them hanging, wiggling at the water surface as they breathe. Larvae must live in water to survive, and this stage lasts from 7-14 days.

Larvae grow and mature into the 3rd stage of a mosquito’s life... **pupae... also called “tumblers”** because pupae float at the surface and dive or tumble down through the water when disturbed. This stage lasts 1-4 days depending on the kind of mosquito and the temperature of the water, then the adult mosquito emerges.



What’s the best way to control mosquitoes?

Find and eliminate mosquito breeding areas...

no eggs → no larvae → no pupae → no adults!!!

Remember, these little gals will lay their eggs wherever there’s water, and you can make your home and property **very unattractive** to mosquitoes by

- ◆ throwing away old bottles, jars & cans so water can’t collect
- ◆ emptying water from old tires, buckets, flower pot saucers, toys, cemetery vases... wherever it collects
- ◆ changing water in wading pools, bird baths and pet water bowls at least once a week if not more often
- ◆ cleaning out rain gutters
- ◆ filling or draining low spots where water collects temporarily
- ◆ making sure windows and doors are “bug tight”
- ◆ drilling holes in old tires & other containers so they drain

