

Mosquitoes that Carry West Nile Virus

The Culex & Asian Tiger Mosquitoes

Tips on Using Insect Repellent Safely

-Carefully follow insect repellent label directions and precautions.

-Use products containing DEET, or try the “Green DC” approach by using aromatic oils specifically designed as mosquito repellent.

-Do not apply to eyes or mouth; and apply sparingly around ears. Do not spray directly on face; spray on hands, then apply to your face.

-Do not apply to children’s hands. Apply to your own hands, then put it on the child. Wash hands thoroughly after application to avoid exposure to face tissues.

-Apply only to exposed skin and/or clothing. Do not use under clothing.

-Never use on cuts, wounds or sunburn.



The Culex Mosquito

Origin– The Culex mosquito is considered the “common house mosquito” of North America and Europe, and is the most prevalent mosquito in the District of Columbia.

Identification– Yellow color with brown stripes on abdomen.

Feeding– Prefers avian hosts but also bites mammals, including humans. Most active during dusk and before dawn, the female feeds on blood while the male feeds on nectar, pollen and plants that are sweet in taste.

Attraction– The Culex mosquito prefers areas with stagnant, swampy water, such as unused swimming pools, backyard ponds, or water collecting in gutters.

Transmission– West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, Meningitis and Urticaria.



The Asian Tiger Mosquito

Origin– This aggressive mosquito was brought from Asia to the United States during the transportation of goods and international travel. Initially, it was found in tires and now has spread around the world.

Identification– The Asian Tiger mosquito is black and white with stripes on the legs and abdomen. The body size is about 2 to 10 mm long.

Feeding– You can see this mosquito anytime during dawn, daytime, or dusk hours. The female feeds on blood while the male feeds on nectar, pollen and plants that are sweet in taste.

Attraction– Carbon dioxide and humidity (damp places). They not only bite humans but also mammals and birds.

Transmission– West Nile Virus, Yellow Fever virus, Chikungunya, St. Louis encephalitis and Dengue virus.

Prevention– The DC Department of Health monitors West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes in all 8 Wards. Residents must help reduce mosquito breeding grounds around their homes by cleaning and eliminating wet areas with poor drainage. Cleaning includes leaf removal in gutters, removal of tires, puddles that sit longer than 3 days, cleaning bird baths, flower pots, etc.

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