



# Mosquito Control Efforts in 2017

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April 26, 2017



Helping Lexington be well.

# Importance of Preventing Mosquito-borne Illnesses

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- Concerns: Zika, West Nile Virus and other diseases spread by the bite of an infected mosquito
- Zika: spreading northward from the tropics and could potentially reach us this mosquito season
- Zika: linked to birth defects; riskiest for children infected prior to birth.
- 2 confirmed cases of West Nile Virus in Lexington last year; 1 travel-related case of Zika in Lexington last year

# Integrated Pest (Mosquito) Management



Combination of interventions is most effective:

- Prevention: Elimination of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, even small amounts
- Prevention: Killing mosquitoes at the larval stage
- Once mosquitoes have hatched:
  - Wear light-colored, long-sleeved clothing; avoid times of the day when mosquitoes are most active—dawn and dusk
  - Use effective, EPA-approved mosquito repellents

## Help Eliminate Mosquitoes

Here are a few ways you can get rid of standing water and reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home or property.



Eliminate standing water in buckets, birdbaths, toys, puddles, etc.



Dispose of old tires, trash, and building materials.



Fix leaky faucets and outdoor hoses that are dripping water.



Clean your gutters so water runs freely.



Repair screens and windows to keep mosquitoes out.



Maintain hedges, shrubs, and tall grass to eliminate resting locations.

# Mosquito Control at LFCHE in 2017

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- Continued emphasis on clean-up of residential and commercial properties, including neighborhoods. Awareness event on May 3 at 10 a.m. at McConnell Springs.
- Greater focus on attacking mosquitoes in the larval stage by treating standing water.
- Use results of mosquito trapping throughout the county to guide localized mosquito spraying.
- Backpack treatments for yards of those with confirmed mosquito-borne illness and their immediate neighbors.



# Cost

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Approximate cost of health department interventions:

- \$57,000 for personnel time
- \$51,000 for equipment and supplies

# Communications

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- In the event that the need for mosquito spraying or treatment arises, plans can be sent to the council and traditional media and be shared via LFCHD social media and with LexAlerts.
- Notice may be as short as 12-24 hours, in order to spray an area in a timely manner. Street addresses will not be specified, in order to protect confidentiality.

# What can Lexingtonians do?



- Police your property and eliminate all standing water or places where water could puddle.
- If standing water cannot be drained, use larvacides that will prevent mosquito eggs from developing.
- When outside, dress in light-colored, long sleeved clothing.
- Wear mosquito repellent according to manufacturer's directions.



## Protect Yourself

Follow these simple steps to protect yourself, family, and friends from Zika and other viruses.



Apply insect repellent when you're outdoors. Always follow manufacturer directions for using repellents (especially on pregnant women and small children).



Avoid activities in areas with lots of mosquitoes when going outdoors.



Wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and socks to help protect from bites.

# Additional Information

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- Educational materials for reducing mosquito populations and avoiding mosquito bites are available on the LFCHD website: [www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org](http://www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org). Staff are available to speak with neighborhood groups.
- LFCHD staff can investigate reports of high mosquito numbers in areas of the county. To report an issue, call (859) 231-9791.
- A statewide Zika Summit will be held at the Lexington Convention Center on Thursday, May 11. To register, go to <https://goo.gl/forms/Y6Dt4QuuqOFUpUxj2>



# Questions?

For more information, contact

[LFCHD@ky.gov](mailto:LFCHD@ky.gov)

or visit

[www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org](http://www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org)



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