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Take Steps Now to Control Mosquitoes

Summary

With the warmer months quickly approaching, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) encourages you to take action now to protect your community from mosquito-borne illnesses. The historic flooding in October, coupled with a relatively warm winter, has the potential to boost mosquito populations.

Mosquitoes can spread illnesses such as West Nile virus, chikungunya, dengue, eastern equine encephalitis, and Zika virus. No cases of Zika have been identified in South Carolina at this time, and the virus is not currently found in mosquitoes in the United States. However, the most likely carrier of the Zika virus, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, is found in small numbers in Charleston County. The *Aedes albopictus* mosquito is abundant in South Carolina and is a **potential** carrier.

DHEC is strongly urging all local governments to review, update and/or create local ordinances now to help your mosquito control program reduce standing water in your community, which can provide breeding sites for mosquitoes. Local mosquito control programs also should be evaluated to determine current response capacities. If your county or municipality does not currently have a mosquito abatement program, DHEC encourages you to evaluate the need for a local program to help protect your community.

It is important to note that DHEC's storm water program only regulates runoff that can affect the quality of water reaching the state's rivers, streams and lakes (e.g., runoff from construction sites). The program does not address standing water in which mosquitoes often breed. This is the responsibility of local governments in our state, some of which have their own storm water programs that have additional tools to address standing water.

Individuals also should take efforts to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites around their homes and businesses. Containers that hold water – such as flower pots, bird baths, tires and pet dishes – should be drained. Swimming pools should be properly maintained. Eliminate standing water in areas like gutters or drainage ditches with regular cleaning.

DHEC helps identify and track the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. This effort includes partnering with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure mosquito populations are tested for viruses.

For Local Government Leaders:

Resources for Additional Information

- For a listing of local mosquito control programs statewide, go to <http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Insects/Mosquitoes/LocalMosquitoControl/>.
- For more information on preventing mosquito-borne illnesses, including sample public health messaging and guidance for citizens, visit www.scdhec.gov/mosquitoes.
- For more information on the Zika virus, visit www.scdhec.gov/zika.
- For more information on the West Nile virus, visit www.scdhec.gov/westnile.

Contact Information

While mosquito control is a local responsibility, DHEC recognizes that it will take all of us working together to prepare for and prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases as the weather warms up. We greatly appreciate your local government taking steps now to control the mosquito population and help protect the health of your community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Renee Shealy, Environmental Health Services Bureau Chief**, at **(803) 896-8994** or **shealyrg@dhec.sc.gov**.

For Health Care Professionals:

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of Zika Virus infection is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2016 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/Library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2016

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region

MAIL TO:

<u>Lowcountry</u> 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405 Fax: (843) 953-0051	<u>Midlands</u> 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Fax: (803) 576-2993	<u>Pee Dee</u> 145 E. Cheves Street Florence, SC 29506 Fax: (843) 661-4859	<u>Upstate</u> 200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602 Fax: (864) 282-4373
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CALL TO:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lowcountry</u></p> <p>Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Phone: (843) 953-0043 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091</p> <p>Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper Phone: (843) 322-2453 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091</p> <p>Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg Phone: (803) 268-5833 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Midlands</u></p> <p>Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland Phone: (803) 576-2749 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046</p> <p>Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, York Phone: (803) 286-9948 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046</p> <p>Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda Phone: (803) 642-1618 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pee Dee</u></p> <p>Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion Phone: (843) 661-4830 Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845</p> <p>Clarendon, Lee, Sumter Phone: (803) 773-5511 Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845</p> <p>Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg Phone: (843) 915-8804 Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Upstate</u></p> <p>Anderson, Oconee Phone: (864) 260-5801 Nights/Weekends: (866) 298-4442</p> <p>Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick Phone: (864) 227-5947 Nights/Weekends: (866) 298-4442</p> <p>Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union Phone: (864) 372-3133 Nights/Weekends: (866) 298-4442</p>
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**For information on reportable conditions, see
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/>**

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control
Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
2100 Bull St • Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 898-0861 • Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Info Service	Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.