



Burlington County Mosquito Control Fact Sheet

Burlington County Mosquito Control (BCMC) and the Burlington County Department of Health put out a message notifying town managers and mayors to sign up for the Mosquito Control notification system. This notification system provides information for County residents, vulnerable populations and stakeholders who are interested to know when and where certain chemical treatments will be used in their community.

Why Do We Spray for Mosquitos?

New Jersey Title 7 Administrative Code requires that county governments in New Jersey maintain a division of mosquito control. BCMC is required to set traps and provide specimens for testing to New Jersey Department of Health to check for certain communicable diseases. The goal is to reduce the mosquito population, which are a primary vector for diseases. The New Jersey Department of Health tests for the following diseases: West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Jamestown Canyon Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, La Crosse Encephalitis, Dengue and Zika. The bolded diseases have been detected in mosquitos in the county. Each of these diseases poses a significant threat to humans: **Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Jamestown Canyon Virus.**

What Does Burlington County Mosquito Control Do?

Education

When a resident calls about mosquitos, an inspector is dispatched. Upon arrival, the inspectors educate about the importance of removing any stagnant water. Mosquito control is hyperlocal. Mosquitos can breed successfully in a container of water the size of a soda bottle top, so eliminating stagnant water in an individual's yard is always the first step. Farmers with improper grading on their property are advised to remediate faulty irrigation systems, fix driveways and call mosquito control for advice.

Environmental Control

In any county owned right of way, ditches, culverts, or surface that can hold water, our inspectors frequently physically remove barriers that are preventing proper drainage. County inspectors also advise residents to remove these similar barriers in and around their property.

Biological Control

The New Jersey Department of Health provides hundreds of thousands of fish to counties each year to stock problematic ponds and lakes. Certain native fish eat larva and can significantly reduce the populations of mosquitos in a given area. This methodology is preferred of both the state and the county, as it provides a long-term solution.

Chemical treatment

When mosquitos from a given area are identified as a certified or potential carrier of diseases, Burlington County Mosquito Control as directed by the State of New Jersey uses EPA approved, state mandated treatments to reduce emergent populations.

Process for Chemical Treatment by Helicopter

NO liquid spray is dispensed by helicopter. All helicopter treatments distribute clay pellets of larvicide, which is a treatment that prevents the mosquito eggs from hatching. These helicopter treatments are only over heavily wooded areas of 5 acres and above. Helicopters have a spotter on board to ensure that no resident, pet or any other unintended target is underneath the helicopter as it treats an area.

Steps:

- 1) Inspectors go out and visually inspect known breeding grounds (wetlands)
- 2) Inspectors take samples to the Burlington County lab to check to see if it is a species that can be treated, and if it is in the right stage of its lifecycle.
- 3) If treatment is appropriate, a list of priority areas is created, and the helicopter is scheduled for the specific mission and sent out.
- 4) **24 hours PRIOR** BCMC provides a voluntary email notice. Information includes: the area being treated, chemicals being used, and the quantity being used. Please note Title 7 does not require notice.

Process for Chemical Treatment by truck

Chemical Treatment by truck contain pesticides and a public notice requirement each and every time spraying is ordered by the New Jersey Department of Health.

Steps:

- 1) Traps are set throughout the county regularly
- 2) When traps are collected, captured mosquitos are brought back to the lab and identified
- 3) The mosquitos are then sent to the state department of health for testing.
- 4) **If mosquitos are diseased, trucks are dispatched to spray in ONLY the area where the diseased mosquitos were found.**
- 5) **24 hours prior, mosquito control notifies all bee keepers, and spraying occurs in the evening to avoid harming any bees.**

Which chemicals are used? Who approves the chemicals?

All chemicals are EPA and State Department of Health approved. The chemicals, all of which fall into the aforementioned category change frequently based on type and variety of mosquito, as well as availability of certain products. The best way for residents to find out what chemicals will be used in their area is to sign up on the website for notification.