

Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

There are more than 50 species of mosquitoes in Suffolk County. Some are able to transmit infection through their bite.

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the U.S. and is established in Suffolk County. It is spread primarily by the *Culex pipiens* mosquito, also known as the northern house mosquito, which is found in Suffolk County. It bites from dusk until dawn.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus

Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus is typically spread by a variety of mosquitoes from swampy regions. In Suffolk County, this virus has been found sporadically in mosquitoes but there has never been a human infection.

Dengue, Chikungunya & Zika Virus

Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika viruses are spread primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes. *Aedes* mosquitoes will bite anytime during the day or night. The vast majority of these infections are acquired while traveling to other countries.

Dengue: Globally, dengue is the most common mosquito-borne disease. In the U.S., outbreaks of dengue have occurred in the south and Hawaii, with only one locally acquired infection having been reported in Suffolk County.

Chikungunya: Chikungunya outbreaks have occurred throughout Asia, Africa and Europe, and more recently in the Caribbean. No locally acquired infections have been reported in Suffolk County.

Zika: In addition to the bite of an infected mosquito, Zika virus can also be spread through sexual contact or blood transfusions. It can also be passed from mother to fetus during pregnancy. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects. Zika virus outbreaks have occurred in parts of Africa, South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. No locally acquired infections have been reported in Suffolk County.

Travel: Precautions should be taken when traveling to places where these viruses are circulating. Visit the CDC's website for current information on at risk travel destinations.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

More about *Aedes* Mosquitoes: According to the CDC, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are more capable of spreading viruses than *Aedes albopictus* (also known as Asian Tiger) mosquitoes.

- Currently, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are not found in New York.
- *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes have been found in Suffolk County since 2004.
- *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes have not been known to cause infection in Suffolk County, but are capable of transmitting viruses and have been implicated in outbreaks in other countries.

Additional Resources

Suffolk County Department of Public Works:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/publicworks.aspx>

If you have a concern about mosquitoes or to report an abandoned/stagnant swimming pool or standing water contact Suffolk County Vector Control: 631-852-4270

Suffolk County Department of Health Services:

<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/health>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov>

New York State Department of Health:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2731/>

Questions?

Call the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Information Line:

631-787-2200

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Get the Buzz on Mosquito Protection



from
Suffolk County
Department of Health
Services

5 **IMPORTANT STEPS**
To Protect You and Your Family
from Mosquito-Borne Illness

Protection

Some mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn, but others will bite any time during the day or night.

- When possible, wear protective clothing with long sleeves and long pants.
- Use repellents that are EPA approved, with EPA labeling on the product.



This example of EPA's repellency awareness graphic helps identify the amount of time a product will repel mosquitoes.

- Be sure to reapply repellent as often as indicated on the label.
- Be sure to follow label directions.
- Do NOT spray repellent on skin under clothing.
- If you are using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and repellent second.
- Use fans outdoors to prevent mosquitoes from flying around you.

If you have a baby or child

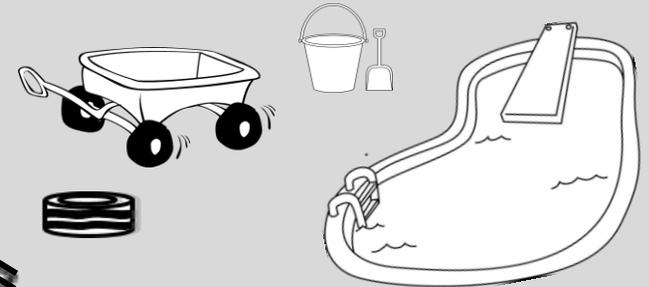
- When possible, dress children in protective clothing with long sleeves and long pants.
- Do NOT use repellent on babies younger than two months old.
- Cover baby carriages with mosquito nets.
- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and cut or irritated skin.
- Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.

Five Important Steps to Protection

You are the first line of defense against mosquitoes around your home. Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. Even small amounts of water can act as breeding sites for mosquitoes. These five steps done weekly will help reduce mosquitoes in your yard.

1 Keep Your Yard Tidy

Fill any holes in your yard and unclog gutters. Maintain swimming pools and keep grass trimmed.

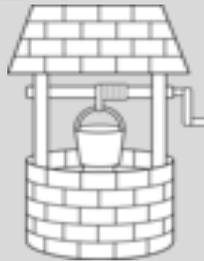


2 Repair Screens

Make sure all window and door screens are free of holes and rips that could allow mosquitoes to enter your home.

3 Remove Standing Water

Dump water from outdoor items such as children's toys, birdbaths, planters, dog bowls, and garbage cans. Turn over, cover, or drill holes in the bottom of the items that can hold water and are left outside, like garbage cans.



4 Scrub Items that Hold Water

After you dump water from a container, mosquito eggs may remain on the sides, even if you cannot see them. Scrubbing items clean will remove these eggs.

5 Prepare
Get ready for mosquito season by having EPA approved repellents on hand.

