

Mosquitoes: What to Know?

Not all mosquitoes in DC are the same and some types are more common than others. Different kinds of mosquitoes also spread different diseases and bite at different times of the day. No matter what type of mosquito you encounter, methods to protect yourself from bites and reduce mosquito breeding sites in your neighborhood are the same.

Mosquito Bite Prevention Tips

- Wear long sleeve shirts, pants, socks and shoes when outside
- Use insect repellents such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemons eucalyptus and apply only to exposed skin and/or clothing (only on appropriate age groups as directed by the product label)



- Stay in air conditioned houses and secure screens on windows and doors

Mosquito Control Tips

- Check yards weekly, emptying or discarding water-filled containers (*flower pots, gutters, spare tires, unused swimming pools, etc.*)



- If empty containers or large objects (*for example, boats or appliances*) must be stored, they should be covered, turned over or placed under a roof
- Fill tree holes and other cavities in plants
- Check for hidden bodies of water such as wells, septic tanks, manholes, clogged drains, etc.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet-watering dishes weekly

Mosquitoes Found in DC

Northern House Mosquito *Culex Pipiens*

Origin: *Culex pipiens* of North America and Europe is the most common mosquito in DC.

Identification: Yellow color with brown stripes on abdomen.

Feeding Habits: Females feed on blood and prefer biting birds but will also bite mammals, including humans. They are most active during dusk and before dawn. Males do not bite.

Habitat: Prefers urban settings and areas with standing water, such as unused swimming pools, spare tires, flower pots, and water collected in gutters.

Transmission: Eastern encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, Saint Louis encephalitis, West Nile Virus.



Asian Tiger Mosquito *Aedes Albopictus*

Origin: Originally from Southeast Asia, this aggressive mosquito is found in DC.

Identification: Black and white stripes on the legs and abdomen.

Feeding Habits: Females feed on blood from birds and mammals, including humans. They are most active during the day. Males do not bite.

Habitat: Prefers rural settings and areas with standing water, such as ponds, puddles, and water collected in leaves.

Transmission: Chikungunya virus, Dengue Fever virus, Heartworm Disease in pets, Saint Louis encephalitis, Yellow Fever virus, Zika Virus.



Yellow Fever Mosquito *Aedes Aegypti*

Origin: Likely originating in Africa and brought to the Americas centuries ago. Usually found in the southeastern region of the U.S but present in small pockets in DC.

Identification: White stripe down the middle of the top of the thorax and banded legs.

Feeding Habits: Females feed on blood and prefer humans but will bite other mammals. They are most active during daylight, for approximately two hours after sunrise and several hours before sunset. Males do not bite.

Habitat: Prefers urban settings and areas with standing water, such as unused swimming pools, spare tires, flower pots, and water collected in gutters.

Transmission: Chikungunya virus, Dengue Fever virus, Heartworm Disease in pets, Saint Louis encephalitis, Yellow Fever virus, Zika Virus.



To report high numbers of mosquitoes or standing water in your neighborhood call **(202) 442-5833** or email mosquito.info@doh.gov