

Columbiana County Health Department warns residents of Mosquito-Borne Diseases

The Columbiana County Health District is warning residents of Mosquito-Borne Diseases as the temperatures rise this spring.

Residents should do the following to prevent Mosquito Borne Diseases.

- Wear light-colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts or jackets and long pants to protect against mosquito bites.
- Wear mosquito repellents that contain EPA-registered active ingredient such as DEET, picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535. Children should use products that have no more than 10 percent DEET.
- Wear clothing treated with permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent for extra protection.
- Keep window and door screens closed and in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of your house.
- Drain Water to prevent mosquito harborage. Mosquitoes can grow in containers that hold water for more than a week such as pop cans, buckets, bottles and discarded tires.
- Containers that fill with water should be emptied at least once a week.
- Change the water in birdbaths every week.
- Keep rain gutters clean.
- Fix outdoor leaking faucets.
- Clean ditches so water can flow.
- Fill holes that hold water with gravel or dirt.
- Take extra care to use repellents from dusk to dawn.
- Consider avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito biting hours.

Most people infected with mosquito-borne viruses show no symptoms, however, people over 50 years of age and Children under the age of 16 are more likely to develop severe illness from the disease. Symptoms to look for are body aches, fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, confusion, weakness, stiffness, and convulsions. Coma and paralysis occur in some cases and the virus can be fatal.

The Columbiana County Health Department has mosquito dunks and bits available for residents that have problems emptying water holes which can cause these nuisance conditions. Please contact the Columbiana County Environmental Division for the Columbiana County General Health District at (330) 424-0272.