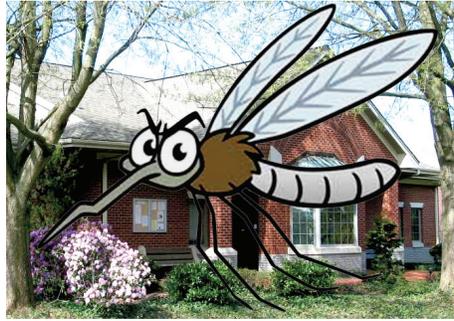


EBT News Brief: The Mosquitoes Are Coming – What to Do?



As the weather warms, East Bradford residents will soon have to deal with mosquitoes. These insects have been in the news since they can sometimes transmit the Zika virus and in our area, the West Nile Virus.



Before you grab the bug spray or yard pesticides, please know that some simple, non-toxic steps can be far more effective in preventing the spread of mosquitoes and the diseases they can transmit. Just remember that mosquitoes breed in standing water, **so take that away from them as best you can**. We can all help right now and throughout the spring, summer and fall to reduce risk by using these common sense tips from the Chester County Health Department:

- ❖ Cover or empty containers such as trashcans, wading pools, wheelbarrows and pots
- ❖ Turn containers upside down when not in use so they don't collect water
- ❖ Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers
- ❖ Get rid of old tires (and don't store new tires outside)
- ❖ Change the water in birdbaths every 3-5 days
- ❖ Check storm drains, window wells, and underneath leaky faucets for standing water
- ❖ Clean roof gutters every year
 - Address standing water right away
- ❖ Aerate and/or stock ornamental ponds and fountains with fish
- ❖ Keep swimming pools chlorinated
- ❖ Make sure that water does not gather on swimming pool covers
- ❖ Treat a pool of standing water that cannot be drained with Bti products
 - Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, subspecies *israelensis*) is naturally occurring bacterial product that kills mosquito larvae and is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants
 - You can find these products at local lawn & garden supply stores
- ❖ Make sure window and door screens fit tightly to keep mosquitoes out of your home
- ❖ Run electric fans nearby when spending time outdoors. Mosquitoes have trouble flying in strong winds
- ❖ Replace outdoor lights with yellow "bug" lights, which tend to attract fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights

These are all pesticide free methods and are examples of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Learn more about IPM and additional mosquito control strategies in the EBT *In-Depth Report: Integrated Pest Management to Reduce Mosquito Risks*.

