



Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

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May 13, 2016

Connie Hudson, Commissioner
District 2
Mobile County Commission
Post Office Box 1443
Mobile, Alabama 36633

Dear Commissioner Hudson:

This is in response to your request for information regarding plans to combat the spread of Zika virus in our community.

Currently, Vector Control is conducting daytime spraying throughout the city and county. Schedules are set to cover 50 different spray routes. Vector is rotating first and second generation chemical insecticides and organophosphates so that no tolerance is built up in the mosquito population. The most critical piece of this plan is for residents to do their part, especially around their home.

Different types of mosquitoes prefer to lay their eggs in different habitats. Some species prefer woodland depressions or grassy shorelines. Others prefer to lay their eggs in roadside ditches, containers or tree holes. Removing mosquito breeding environments from around your home is the first line of defense against mosquitoes, and one of the most important. Remember, mosquitoes do not need much water to breed. **We recommend that you take the following steps to protect you and your family by monitoring these simple activities around the family home:**

- Empty containers that can collect water such as buckets, cans and jars, overturned garbage can lids, etc.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Turn over or cover canoes and other boats, children's wading pools, and wheelbarrows.
- Change the water and scrub the sides of bird baths, animal troughs, and pet watering dishes at least once a week to eliminate mosquito eggs and larvae.
- Check and empty water from children's toys that have been left outside.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Change water in vases and pots holding flowers or plant cuttings at least once a week.
- Dispose of unused tires properly, or store where water cannot collect in them.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes with sand or mortar and fill in holes or depression in your yard.
- Repair leaky pipes and outdoor faucets.
- Do not blow or rake grass clippings into roadside ditches.

For anyone interested in obtaining additional information, we recommend that they visit the following websites: www.adph.org/mosquito, or call 1-800-252-181, www.cdc.gov/Zika.

Sincerely,

Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr.P.H, F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

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