

What's the Problem?

Mosquitoes are true pests, a source of immense suffering due to the diseases they spread to humans and animals. They are annoying, biting insects that spread disease pathogens from one host to another.

- Several viruses and parasites can be carried by mosquitoes.
- West Nile virus may cause encephalitis or meningitis, which can result in permanent brain damage or death. West Nile virus affects people, animals, and birds.
 - Encephalitis is inflammation of the brain; meningitis is inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.
- LaCross encephalitis infects squirrels and chipmunks and is spread to humans by mosquitoes; it mainly affects children.
- St. Louis encephalitis affects wild birds, but can spread to people, mainly affecting older adults.
- Heartworm parasites that affect our pets are spread by mosquitoes (your veterinarian can give you heartworm preventive for dogs and cats).
- Yellow fever and dengue fevers are virus-caused mainly tropical diseases. However, the mosquito species that transmit them are found in our area.
- Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. Malaria is generally a tropical disease, but the mosquito species that transmit it are found in Illinois.

WATER is IMPORTANT! Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water. The wigglers (mosquito larvae) hatch and grow there, feeding on bacteria from decaying vegetation (the kind you can find in your gutters, low areas in your yard, or in piles of old wet leaves). The best way to get rid of mosquitoes before they start is to *get rid of stagnant water*.

Myth: Mosquitoes are NOT a significant food source for birds or bats (they're too small). Dragonfly nymphs, aquatic larvae of other insects, polliwogs or salamander larvae may feed on mosquito larvae, but if there are no mosquito larvae available they do very well feeding on other insect larvae.

Preventing mosquito bites

first 3 points are fine

Repellants: Use mosquito repellents if you are going to be outdoors. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that DEET, Picaridin, or Lemon Eucalyptus. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends use of DEET up to 10% for children 2 months – 12 years old. No serious illness has been linked to the use of DEET in children when used according to manufacturer's recommendations. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are effective but have not been tested sufficiently in children for AAP to recommend use in children under 2 years old.

New under Contact Information:

Report standing water over 3 days (anywhere) to southlake@clarkemosquito.com, or call the mosquito hot line.