



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Controlling and Preventing Growing Mosquito Population

LIBERTY, Mo. – June 20, 2017– Recent flood activity has caused an increase in mosquito populations throughout Missouri and Clay County. In addition, West Nile virus has been seen in mosquitoes earlier than usual this year. Due to these changes within the metro area mosquito population, we are offering tips and mosquito larvicide to help control the population and prevent further growth.

For the mosquitoes that are already present in our area, there are preventive measures that can be taken to avoid getting bitten. Using [EPA-registered mosquito repellents](#), covering skin with clothing and staying indoors at dusk are all ways to help prevent mosquito bites.

To prevent the increase of the mosquito population, one of the best means of control is the elimination of breeding habitats. Unfortunately, mosquitoes can develop in any standing water that is present for more than five days. It is therefore recommended that residents attempt to eliminate all standing water and debris. Recommended spots include:

- Standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week.
- Drain or fill temporary pools of water with dirt.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

Another way to control the mosquito population is at the larval stage. Especially when breeding habitats cannot be eliminated, larvicides can be used in those areas to manage the population. The Environmental Health Section of Clay County Public Health Center is offering a larvicide to interested residents that may have ponds, lakes or other breeding habitats that are hard to eliminate. More information about the specific larvicide can be found here: <http://www.myadapco.com/product/altosid-briquets/>. Residents interested in obtaining the free larvicide should call our Environmental Health Section at (816) 595-4350.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit www.clayhealth.com.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.