

Aerial Spraying for Mosquitoes to Prevent EEE

Last Revised 09/27/19

What is aerial spraying and why is it happening now?

There has been a record number of cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) this year. Given the elevated risk of human illness due to this virus that is spread by mosquitoes, your state and local health officials are opting to use an aerial insecticide to reduce the number of potentially infected, adult mosquitoes in the specific areas of elevated risk.

How and when will aerial spraying happen?

Aerial spraying is conducted by airplane that flies over the areas of concern during early evening and nighttime hours (approximately 8PM-4AM), weather permitting, to distribute the insecticide product. Mosquito control professionals apply approved insecticide as an ultra low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets (about 1 ounce per acre or about the size of a football field) that kill adult mosquitoes on contact in the air. **To find out when spraying will occur in your specific area, please visit www.bchdmi.org or [facebook.com/bchdmi](https://www.facebook.com/bchdmi) for updates.**

Is aerial spraying of insecticides dangerous/harmful to human health?

No, during aerial spraying, a small amount of insecticide is sprayed over an area, about 1 ounce (two tablespoons) per acre or about the size of a football field. This small amount does not pose a health risk to people or pets in the area that is sprayed. The insecticide being used, Merus 3.0, is an EPA-registered, organic product developed for aerial spraying that is conducted by a licensed professional. If people prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying takes place they can, but it is not necessary.

How effective is aerial spraying? Do I still need to wear insect repellent?

Aerial spraying is extremely effective to eliminate up to 90% of the adult mosquito population in the area where insecticide is applied. However, it is recommended that you still take precautions to prevent mosquito bites by wearing an EPA-approved insect repellent, long sleeves/pants, and consider limiting time outdoors between dusk and dawn.

What can I do if I am concerned about the mosquito spraying that is happening?

In general, no special actions are needed before or after the aerial spraying occurs. If you wish to take extra precautions, you may choose to:

- Remain inside during the hours that spraying occurs
- Close windows and doors. Turn off air conditioners and window fans that bring outdoor air inside.
- Bring outdoor items (laundry, outdoor furniture, children's toys) inside or cover them, if possible.
- Keep pets/animals indoors and cover swimming pools.

