



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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Health Department Has More Free Mosquito Insecticide

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health has received a new shipment of mosquito insecticide and will give away a four-month supply per person while supplies last. The larvicide can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Public Health Center, 1235 Ramsey St.

The Health Department's Environmental Health Division has received 50 cases of Mosquito Dunks – enough for 1,250 residents. The product will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis and is available for Cumberland County residents only. The department offered the dunks earlier in the summer and reordered more based on demand. The program is funded in part by the North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services' State Aid for Mosquito Control.

“With the recent rains we've had, there are more breeding areas for mosquitoes and we highly recommend that citizens use the ‘tip and toss’ method of dumping standing water on their property,” said Environmental Health Supervisor Daniel Ortiz. “For those areas that can't be tipped or drained, we recommend citizens use the mosquito insecticide available for free at the health department to reduce the mosquito population.”

The round-shaped product is placed in water, where it floats. Each dunk will be effective for 30 days in standing water and will cover 100 square feet of surface. It can be used in lakes, fish ponds, bird baths, flower pots, aquatic gardens, flood-control basins, unused swimming pools and other areas where standing water creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The active ingredient is bacillus thuringiensis, which is a biological pest control agent that kills mosquito larvae. It is non-toxic to fish, birds, wildlife and pets.

As part of the Health Department's mosquito control program, the Environmental Health Division will also be treating known areas of standing water in the community that are breeding grounds for mosquitos.

In addition to using insecticide, there are simple ways to prevent mosquito bites.

- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, barrels and tires. Replace the water in bird baths weekly.
- Keep children's wading pools empty or stored on their side when not in use.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors.

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- Apply insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure your windows have good screens to keep mosquitoes out.

For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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