



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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Health Department Offers Free Mosquito Insecticide

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is giving away free mosquito insecticide to Cumberland County residents while supplies last. The Mosquito Dunks product is a biological pest control agent that kills mosquito larvae. It is non-toxic to fish, birds, wildlife and pets.

County residents can pick up a four-month supply of the insecticide at the Health Department, 1235 Ramsey St., Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. There are extended hours on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

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. Printed instructions will be available.

“After placing the dunks in the breeding areas, the mosquito population will slowly diminish,” said Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz. “This control method seems slow, but gives long-term control over a potentially dangerous insect.” The distribution program is funded in part by the North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services’ State Aid for Mosquito Control.

As part of the Health Department’s mosquito control efforts, the Environmental Health Division will also be treating known areas of standing water in the community that serve as mosquito breeding grounds. Ortiz also reminds citizens they can help by tipping over any containers that have standing water around their homes and properties.

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 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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