



# 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. Go to the Environmental Health section on the third floor.

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, drainage ditches, aquatic gardens and decorative ponds, 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.

Environmental Health also reminds citizens of other effective methods of mosquito control, including the “tip and toss” method. Tip over any containers that have standing water including tires, flower pots, buckets, jars and barrels. Replace water in bird baths weekly. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as an ounce of water.

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

- Keep children’s wading pools empty or stored on their side when not in use.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors, which also repels ticks. Remember to always follow product directions.
- Wear long sleeves and pants at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active or stay indoors during these hours.
- Make sure your windows have good screens to keep mosquitoes out.

*If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#). Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment\\_form.aspx](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.*