



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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Health Department To Give Away Mosquito Insecticide

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health will be giving away free mosquito insecticide to Cumberland County residents beginning June 1 as part of the department’s mosquito control program. The product, Mosquito Dunks, is a biological pest control agent that kills mosquito larvae. It is non-toxic to fish, birds, wildlife and pets.

The Health Department’s Environmental Health Division will give county residents a four-month supply of the larvicide while supplies last. 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.

The larvicide can be picked up at the Health Department, 1235 Ramsey St., Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Printed instructions will be available. The program is funded in part by the North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services’ State Aid for Mosquito Control.

“After placing the dunks in the breeding areas, the mosquito population will slowly diminish,” said Environmental Health Supervisor Daniel Ortiz. “This control method seems slow but gives long-term control over a potentially dangerous insect.”

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. Ortiz also reminds citizens they can help the mosquito control program by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds on their property.

“It is essential for any mosquito control program to be effective that homeowners reduce breeding areas,” Ortiz said. “This can be done by tipping over any containers that have standing water.”

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.

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- Keep children's wading pools empty or stored on their side when not in use.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors.
- 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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